

Netanyahu says proposal to pull out from Lebanon 'not a bluff'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Saying he wasn't bluffing about Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposed Thursday that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan mediate an end to Israel's presence there.

Mr. Netanyahu said that a peace treaty would be up to Lebanon and that the only prerequisite for an Israeli withdrawal would be a security arrangement which would deploy Lebanese troops in Israel's place.

"We just want to know that

the Lebanese army will take up the positions we vacate in order to ensure that Hizbollah won't target Israeli towns and villages, civilians from the south of Lebanon," Mr. Netanyahu said on CNN.

"It's a very simple and fair proposition and it's not a bluff," the premier said.

Mr. Netanyahu said he would prefer to sit down with the government of Lebanon but was also prepared to handle arrangements through a mediator, adding "we all respect Kofi Annan, let him

come here."

Last month, shortly after Mr. Annan's visit to the region, Israel formally accepted a U.N. Security Council resolution that calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Israel set up a self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon in 1985 in an effort to prevent cross-border attacks by Hizbollah.

Their efforts have been costly, however, with hundreds of Israeli soldiers killed there fighting Hizbollah, and

responding to public pressure to end Israel's presence there.

Mr. Netanyahu offered to pull troops out if proper security arrangements could be made with Lebanon.

Lebanon rejected the deal however, saying it would not bold any talks that left out Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon.

Addressing Lebanese viewers, Mr. Netanyahu said: "We want peace with you. If people want to test out the seriousness of our resolve all they have to do is try me, tomorrow."



HIZBOLLAH WITH STATUE OF LIBERTY MODEL: Members of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah movement Thursday parade a model of the Statue of Liberty with a sign that reads in Arabic "America is the mother of terrorism in the world" as they take part in an Ashura festival, in which followers mourn the death of Imam Hussein, grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Muslims around the world mourn on the 10th day of the Islamic Muharram month each year to mark Hussein's death (Reuters photo)

CPJ protests Israel's travel ban on Palestinian journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a letter sent last week to the president of Israel's Supreme Court, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the New York-based independent press freedom group, has protested Israel's continued travel restrictions on Palestinian journalist Taher Shritih, according to a CPJ press release.

The Gaza-based free-lance journalist has been denied permission by Israeli authorities since 1995 to travel to Jerusalem and the West Bank to carry out his work as a journalist. The apparent reason for the ban is his coverage of the activities of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Gaza.

Mr. Shritih, a veteran reporter working for The New

York Times, CBS, Reuters, and the British Broadcasting Corporation, filed a petition at the High Court of Justice this week in an attempt to have the restrictions on his freedom of movement lifted, the statement said.

In its letter to Justice Aharon Barak, the CPJ said: "Such extreme limitations on the freedom of movement constitute arbitrary interference with his ability to function fully as a journalist. Mr. Shritih is effectively barred from meeting with current and prospective employers and gathering news and information beyond Gaza."

"Mr. Shritih is widely recognized as one of the most accomplished Palestinian journalists in the West Bank and Gaza. Over the past 11 years,

he has developed a reputation for professionalism and objectivity in his reporting for major international newspapers and news agencies. In recognition of his distinguished and courageous reporting, Mr. Shritih received the Freedom of the Press award from the U.S.-based National Press Club in March 1993.

"Freedom of movement for journalists is essential for the functioning of a free press. Denying Mr. Shritih access to Jerusalem and the West Bank violates the most fundamental right of journalists — the right to 'seek, receive, and impart information and ideas,' as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Six die in Israeli power station accident

ASHKELON (AFP) — Six workers plunged to their death and three others were still missing in a construction site accident at a power station in this Mediterranean port city Friday, electricity company officials said.

Israeli police said earlier that four workers were killed and 13 injured in the accident.

The victims, mainly immigrant workers, fell 100 metres when part of the scaffolding around a chimney under construction collapsed, police said.

An Israeli air force helicopter succeeded in winching to safety three other workers who had been left trapped in the scaffolding about half-way up the 250 metre chimney.

Rescue teams were still looking for three workers who had been working 210 metres above the ground, when the accident took place, the director of Israel's electricity company, Rafi Peled, told Israel Army Radio.

"The rescue operation is dangerous because the remaining scaffolding is threatening to collapse too," he said.

The radio reported that most of the casualties were immigrant workers from India and Romania.

Cairo's population nears 15 million

CAIRO (AFP) — Cairo, one of the world's most crowded cities, has more than 6,500 people living in each square kilometre, according to latest official figures published Friday.

The population of the Egyptian capital and its suburbs rose in mid-1997 to 14.9 million people, who live in an area of 2,273 square kilometres, according to a planning ministry study.

"That means that on average, there are 6,583 people for every square kilometre," said the study, quoted by the government newspaper Al-Ahram.

The average density for the entire populated area of Egypt is 1,698 people per square kilometre, it said.

Egypt's population, estimated at 64 million, is concentrated in only 5.2 per cent of the country, mainly along the Nile River and in the northern delta, the ministry said.

Iranian opposition blasts U.S. overtures to Tehran

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. State Department's "persistent" and "awkward" overtures to Iran "will only encourage Tehran's mullahs to remain terrorists," an Iranian opposition group warned here Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference, a member of the National Council of Resistance of Iran said Washington must understand that Iran is entering a chaotic period and that the Islamic Republic is "a losing horse."

"Factional infighting has entered the danger zone," spokesman Alireza Jafarzadeh said. "There is even talk of a coup d'etat by Revolutionary Guards."

Mr. Jafarzadeh also said that Tehran was preparing to launch "a new series of operations and military strikes against the Mujahadeen."

The People's Mujahadeen, Iran's main armed opposition group, has military bases in Iraq but also is engaged in intense political lobbying against the Tehran regime in European countries and the United States.

But Mr. Ali Mahdi said his faction's constitution allowed him to extend the leadership of the faction for months "if the situation is not smooth enough for the holding of new polls."

"I will not resign because my people still want me to head the faction, but surely, I am frustrated by the overall deadlocked peace process in Somalia, and particularly in divided Mogadishu," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

The Abgal clan strongman denied recent claims by three out of five deputies in the faction that his mandate to serve as leader of the SSA was over that he was now only serving in an individual capacity.

"It is true that my leadership as SSA chairman expired in March, but it was renewed for six months to facilitate the ongoing peace process both in Mogadishu and Somali in general," Mr. Ali Mahdi declared, adding: "We are in the middle of crucial talks with

rivals and cannot at the same time arrange for faction elections here."

But the three deputies — Sheikh Shariff Sheikh Muhyadin, Hussein Haji Bod and Musa Sudi Yallahow — have rejected this.

"If Ali Mahdi really wanted to enjoy the faction power, he must seek the approval of his people. We are not acting against him, but are advocating for the rule of law," Sheikh Muhyadin said.

Greece tells U.S. no PKK office in Athens

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Greece has told U.S. diplomats that a Kurdish separatist group seeking to secede from Turkey will be barred from opening an office in Athens, the State Department said Thursday.

The Greek government notified the U.S. embassy in Athens after the State Department formally requested information on reports that the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which the United States considers a terrorist group, was poised to establish a presence in Greece.

The PKK announced last week it had obtained the backing of the Greek government to open a bureau in Athens.

"The Greek foreign minister has told our embassy in Athens that there has never

been, is not and ever will be an office of the PKK in Greece," said State Department deputy spokesman James Foley.

"We welcome this pledge which is in keeping with Greece's international commitments on counter-terrorism," Mr. Foley said.

The PKK is fighting for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey. More than 29,000 people have died in over 14 years of clashes between Turkish forces and the PKK.

The United States earlier this week reprimanded some Greek members of parliament for expressing support for the PKK, saying that such backing was inconsistent with Greek efforts to fight terrorism and would contribute to tensions with Turkey.

Kohl stresses Germany's responsibility to Israel

BERLIN (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday underlined the "special responsibility" which Germany would always bear to Israel, currently celebrating the 50th anniversary of its creation.

This responsibility "holds for the past, for the present and for the future," Mr. Kohl said in a speech at a ceremony at the Israeli embassy in Berlin.

"Memories of the creation of Israel will always be linked to those of crimes perpetrated by the Nazis against the Jews," the chancellor said.

"For this reason, Germany and Israel will always have a singular relationship," he added.

"Germans should not and don't want to forget the barbarism of National Socialism and the unspeakable suffering of the victims," Mr. Kohl went on.

In a reference to the rise of the far-right in Germany, particularly in the former East Germany, Mr. Kohl called for determined efforts to resist all forms of extremist politics.

He warmly thanked Israel

for having struck up relations with West Germany so soon after its creation, noting, "it was anything but easy to soon after the Holocaust."

The Israeli ambassador to Germany, Avi Primor, said: "Germany today, second to the United States, is our closest friend."

Aside from the U.S., no country has worked so closely with Israel in all fields, Mr. Primor added.

Mr. Kohl remarked upon the rebirth of the Jewish community in Germany, which has doubled to reach 70,000 people since German reunification in 1990.

Prior to the arrival of the Nazis in power in 1933, there were 500,000 Jews in Germany.

The chancellor called for progress to be made in the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, adding that he was "confident" that the Israeli government would find a way clear to a solution.

Mr. Primor echoed his optimism. "We are convinced that we will finally find a compromise with the Palestinians," he said.

Israeli woman is heir to part of Auschwitz land

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli woman has disclosed that she has papers proving that she is the rightful heir to part of the land on which the Nazis built their death camp at Auschwitz in Poland.

Zippora Franck, 63, who lives at Hadera north of Tel Aviv, said in an interview published in the weekend edition of Haaretz newspaper that she had recently travelled to Poland to clarify "this cursed inheritance."

"My parents preferred to keep this 'cursed inheritance' to themselves but my mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease and from a feeling of guilt for having escaped the Nazi hell, finally told me the truth a few years ago," she added.

She even said she had managed to ascertain the fact from documents written in old fashioned Polish legal language which was hard to translate. The contents of

the documents were backed up by aerial photographs taken by Allied troops.

Her grandfather, Yossef Metzger, owned a factory producing tarred paper on the site of the future concentration camp but his land was confiscated by the Nazis after Poland was invaded in September 1939.

"I vaguely remember my grandfather greeting me at the entrance to his factory. It was huge. There were big chimneys and material scattered all over the place."

The documents show that my entire family, except my mother, my father and myself, perished in Auschwitz and were buried in a common grave on the land which belonged to them."

Ms. Franck said she would keep the deeds to parts of the camp site "just to stop the Poles ever building commercial or rented buildings."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — Jonny Quest
15:30Cartoon — Wally Gator
16:00Drama — Neighbours
16:30Doc. — Ocean Wild
17:00French Programme — "Faut Pas Rever"

18:00Acapulco Bay
19:00Le Journal
19:15French Programme — "Discovery Mag"

19:30News headlines
19:35Quiz Show — You Bet Your Life

20:00Cinema, Cinema
20:30Prism
21:10Drama — Sirens
22:00News in English
22:30Feature film — A Brilliant Disguise
23:59Comedy — "Are You Being Served?"
00:30End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:11Fajr
05:39Sunrise/Duha
12:32Dhuhr
16:12Asr
19:25Maghreb
20:53Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4634590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrom Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35 Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas A Hakim885446
Dr. Asrat Al-Ashhab5602507

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....4637111
Civil Defence Department.....5661111
Civil Defence Emergency.....4630341
Public Security Dept.....4637777
Fire Brigade.....4617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....4630321
Hotel Complaints.....5605800
Price Complaints.....5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 89467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....7871111
Telephone Information (direct-

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdil5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 536813, 856856
Luznilla4630195
Khalidi Maternity.....4644281/6
Aklieh Maternity.....462441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....5669131
University Hospital.....5353444
Al-Muashar Hospital 566727/9
Al-Ahli, Abdil5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00Aqaba (RJ)
11:45Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)
12:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00Paris (RJ)
13:00Brussels (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
21:10Riyadh, Doha (RJ)
21:20Bombay (RJ)
21:20Jeddah (RJ)
22:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
01:30Aqaba, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights

06:05 London, Damascus (BA)
14:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:05Vienna (OS)
18:00Dubai, Muscat (EK)
19:00Paris (AF)
19:05Frankfurt (LH)
23:35Cairo (MS)
23:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:40Beirut (ME)
01:05 London, Damascus (BA)
02:05Belgrade (JU)
03:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)
23:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00Aqaba (RJ)
11:45Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)
12:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00Paris (RJ)
13:00Brussels (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
21:10Riyadh, Doha (RJ)
21:20Bombay (RJ)
21:20Jeddah (RJ)
22:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
01:30Aqaba, Paris (RJ)

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Royal Wings (RW)

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Home News

Princess Basma attends scouts ceremony

PRINCESS BASMA attended a ceremony marking the conclusion of a three-day scout meeting held at the summer resort of Dibbin, near Jerash, which was attended by 250 girl scouts from the Ministry of Education's schools around the Kingdom.

Prior to the arrival of the Princess, Basma had attended a scout camp in the Jordanian desert, where she had been a scout leader.

The Princess announced that she would be participating in the scout movement and would be a scout leader.

Princess Basma said she was working to raise the status of the scout movement in Jordan, which had been launched in 1950. She said she was participating in the scout movement to help the young people and to help them to become better citizens.

Valerie Ndarum, O program manager of the scout movement, said that the scout movement was important because it helped the young people to become better citizens and to help them to become better people.

"This is a very important activity in which the young people can participate and to help them to become better citizens," she said.

What's going on

AMERICAN ARTS FESTIVAL

The first American Arts Festival at the Jordanian Center, Jerash (May 10-13). It features a "Sculptured" exhibition by Designer El Masry and a concert by Samer Tabaa on May 10 and 11. A classical concert by the Jordanian Philharmonic Orchestra on May 11. A lecture by Nikkadi on May 12. A concert by the Jordanian Philharmonic Orchestra on May 13.

CONCERT

Lorca's music on a concert by Rafael Alcala at the Union Hall on Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Works by Ecuadorian artist Omedo Quim at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, May 12.

Paintings by the artist Adnan Entabi at the Union Hall on May 28.

Works by the artist Marwan Bashir at the Union Hall on May 28.

Italian program

By Ahmad Kh. Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An humanitarian organization in its first development project in the Kingdom, the Italian-based Movimondo also train teachers and on how to create a nity-based project in a help disabled according to Laura, the project coordinator. "One of the project principles is to provide humans are more than anything else," the Jordan Times said.

Princess Basma attends scouts ceremony

JERASH (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma attended a ceremony marking the conclusion of a three-day scouts meeting held at the summer resort of Dibbin, near Jerash, which was attended by 250 girl scouts from the Ministry of Education's schools around the Kingdom.

In a brief address at the meeting, Princess Basma paid tribute to the Jordanian scouts movement, describing it as a tool for training young men and women to shoulder responsibilities and serve local communities.

The Princess announced that part of the centre for scouts being set up in Amman near the Martyr's Monument has been completed.

Princess Basma said she was working to raise JD100,000 of the centre's estimated JD140,000 cost. The Ministry of Education has pledged to fund the balance of the project, which is scheduled to be completed next summer, she added.

Princess Basma, who was accompanied by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan and leaders of the scouts movement in Jordan, watched folkloric performances by the girl scouts and presented badges to four of the scout leaders.



PRINCESS SARVATH ATTENDS MARCH: HRH Princess Sarvath takes part Thursday in a march organised by the Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRCS) under the slogan "For Your Safety... Buckle Up." The JRCS organised this march to mark International Red Cross/Crescent and to raise public awareness on the increase in the number of car accidents and the resulting casualties (Petra photo)

Orphan aid organisation holds first inter-scholastic athletic event

By Suha Ma'ayeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a bid to offer aid to less fortunate children across the Kingdom, the Friends of Orphaned Children Organisation (FO-O) yesterday launched its first annual inter-scholastic athletic event.

Valerie Ndaruzaniye, FO-O programme coordinator, told the Jordan Times that the fundraising event, which took place at Al Hussein Sports City, is important "because it gives the young population an opportunity to be together... and perhaps to attract the interest of some individual spectators in this type of activity."

"This is one of the strategies in which children from private and public schools, as well as orphans, participate in public sport activities," said Ms. Ndaruzaniye.

The FO-O, established in 1997, is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which provides assistance through sports, social and cultural activities to the groups and institutions caring for orphans and disadvantaged children.

"Medical doctors conduct workshops, lectures and conferences for orphaned children and adolescents and our FO-O sport instructors also train them and assess their physical performance regularly to help build their health," Ms. Ndaruzaniye added.

She explained that the FO-O will assist four orphanages in the beginning and will provide aid to other institutions at a later stage depending on FO-O resources.

"We realise that the role of NGOs is becoming vital in supporting and compensating for the lack of resources in many ways," stressed Mr. Madanat.

He said that when more NGOs and individuals participate, programmes benefiting disadvantaged children could become more effective.

Ten private schools took part in the fundraising event, which was held under the patronage of Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan.

Over 4,000 new telephone lines installed in Wadi Seir neighbourhood

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total of 4,400 new low-cost phone lines were installed in a joint project between His Majesty's Royal Communications (HMRC) and the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) in the Wadi Seir neighbourhood, a senior official told the Jordan Times on Friday.

"After His Majesty King Hussein saw what had befallen this neighbourhood, he knew that something should be done," said the senior official, who asked not to be named.

Telephone line subscriptions have been on hold in Wadi Seir for the past six

years due to technical problems that the JTC was unable to resolve, according to Mamoun Balqar, JTC general director.

But after the Hijri new year celebrated on April 27, a joint HMRC-JTC 10-day project made 4,400 phone lines available at the Wadi Seir telephone exchange.

"The new phone lines are now ready for distribution to subscribers in Wadi Seir," said Mr. Balqar.

The official said the new telephone lines cost \$980,000. "The phone lines were installed at below cost rates," the official added.

In the past, installation of each phone line would have cost the JTC an average of \$1,200 in comparison to the

\$200 per line during the joint HMRC-JTC project.

"The abundance of skilled manpower, people who know how to make use of modern technology, has saved the government's treasury department the burden of debt on this project," the official said.

"On the contrary, JTC, is in a position to make a substantial profit out of the project at prices that are at the same time affordable to citizens."

The cut in costs comes as a result of applying technology known as PCM that makes use of existing copper wire infrastructure by multiplying the number of subscribers who use the same physical line.

Earlier in April, King Hussein made international cir-

cuits via Hashem I, a satellite channel run by the HMRC, available to public and private Internet service providers at rates 30 per cent cheaper than JTC's in the hope that this would widen the circle of Web users in the Kingdom.

This has resulted in JTC's reconsideration of its current price structures, said Mr. Balqar.

"The King's initiative speeded things along and has encouraged us [the JTC] to offer better services and more competitive prices," he added, alluding that services such as caller ID and 800 numbers would be available "soon."

Arab Gulf countries have had these services for the past five years or more.

Amman commerce chamber to attend Gaza trade fair

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) will take part in a one-week trade fair which is due to open Saturday in the Palestinian city of Gaza.

The fair, organised by the Jordan Trade Association in conjunction with the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO), aims at orienting the Palestinian public on Jordanian products and enhancing cooperation between the private sectors and economic centres in the Kingdom and Palestine, according to ACC board member Salman Qudrah, who will represent the chamber at the event.

In addition to a large number of Jordanian businesses that are participating, invitations have been sent to prominent Palestinian businesses in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to attract visitors to the trade fair, Mr. Qudrah said.

The ACC and Arab Bank contributed to the organisation of the fair in conjunction with the concerned authorities of the two countries, he added.

Mr. Qudrah said he hoped that the fair, to be held at the Rashad Shawa business centre in Gaza, would contribute to the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to replace Israeli products with Jordanian goods in Palestinian markets.

Transportation minister asks CAA to reevaluate airline service fees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport Sami Gammoh has urged the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to re-examine the present rates for services provided to airlines at Jordanian airports, which he described as "far below" those in neighbouring countries.

At a meeting with CAA Director General Jasser Ziyad and other senior officials, Mr. Gammoh said it is the CAA's prerogative to ensure that policies connected with air transport and civil aviation conform to the rules of the International Civil Aviation Association.

Mr. Gammoh stressed that the CAA should modernise its services and upgrade the efficiency of its staff, as this would have a beneficial result on the national economy.

To this purpose, he said, the CAA should conduct a study on its present rates for

services to the various airlines at Jordanian airports with a view to earning sufficient returns to finance modernisation plans at airports and upgrade the training of employees.

Mr. Gammoh visited the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Training College and met its director to discuss plans for improvements. He discussed the present services at the airports and the needs for modernisation.

The minister also visited the Hijaz Railway Corporation and met with its director general, Abdul Razzaq Abul Filat. He later made a field trip to the railway and inaugurated a train freight car that was converted into a 50-seat passenger carriage.

He inspected the railway's services and was briefed on current plans to modernise railway services. The minister chaired a meeting to discuss a general modernisa-

tion plan for the railway, the conversion of desert railway stations into resthouses to promote domestic tourism, and other relevant questions.

The trains running on part of the Hijaz Railway, built by the Ottomans at the beginning of the present century, are now used for short excursions by tourists, and efforts are under way to improve services to attract more visitors.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji, who last month accompanied a group of 50 British tourists on a trip along the railway, said the Hijaz Railway is one of Jordan's treasures in view of its close connection to historical events and the Great Arab Revolt.

The present stretch of the railway runs, squiggle from Amman to Um Al Hiran, Jizah and Qataneh and north toward Damascus.

Arts festival to feature exhibition on jewellery design

By Omar Karmi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali on Sunday will open the first American Arts Festival in Jordan at the American Center at the American embassy.

Featuring a lecture by Salwa Mikada Nashashibi on Contemporary Arab Art in the U.S. and two concerts by guitarist Jad Azkoul (one with oud player Sakher Hatat), the festival opens at 6 p.m. with an exhibition of jewellery by the internationally acclaimed Egyptian artist Suzanne Masry and sculptures by Jordanian resident sculptor Samer Tabbaa.

Ms. Masry's jewellery provides a stunning example of jewellery design not merely as a craft, but as an art form. Having studied fine arts and textile design in America, her work reflects a wealth of influences, from the Arabic tradition to modern Impressionist paintings; an emphasis on meaning rather than form, but mixed with a very Eastern eye for immaculate detail and colour.

This breadth of influence is, according to Ms. Masry, vital to her work, as she believes it would be essential to any craftsman: "I think for anybody in the crafts... the study of fine arts, or at least some drawing classes are essential... in my opinion, to be able to materialise the impact nature or life has on you. Your eye becomes more sensitive."

In fact, Ms. Masry started out as an engineer, studying and taking a degree in the subject from Cairo University. Although she always had an interest in jewellery design, and completed a brief apprenticeship in the 'souq' in Cairo with Khan Al Khalili traditional designs, it wasn't until she went to

New Jersey to continue her engineering studies that she finally made the switch, changing her course of study and finishing at the Newark School for Fine Art and Industrial Design.

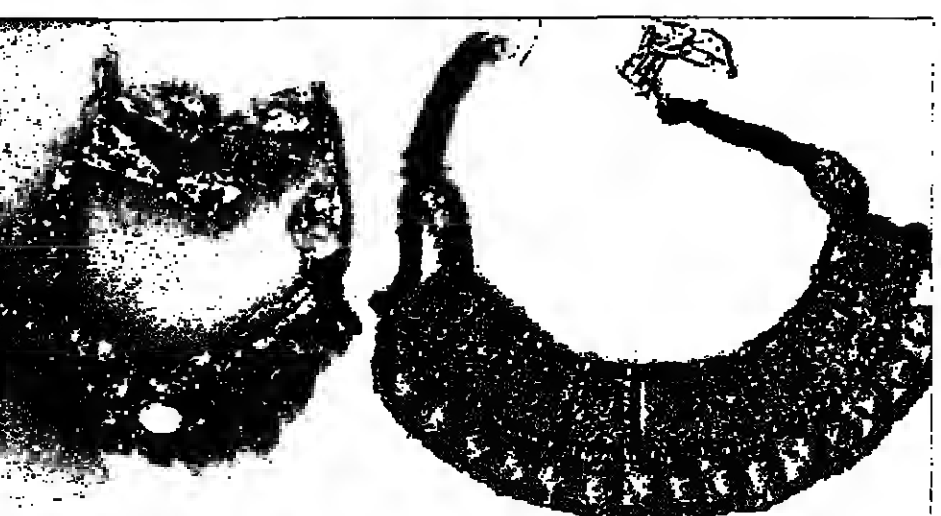
It was a move that she didn't tell her family about, until, a few years later, she was working as a textile designer.

Her first exhibition of jewellery design came in Egypt in 1981 after two years devoted only to hard graft (she produces, from the germ of an idea to the end, her jewellery alone). She exhibited with the established Egyptian painter Al Anisouri, and the exhibition, which was very well received, set her up to be able to make a living purely from jewellery design.

Four years in Paris then secured her international breakthrough. Exhibiting at the Institute of the Arab World, she managed to build up a regular following, not an easy task in the fickle world of French fashion. A full page feature in Elle magazine secured the connection, which continues until now. She is one of the few artists anywhere to have her work exhibited around the world in her own lifetime.

She works with silver, enamels, semi-precious stones, and gold-plated silver, and, despite the emphasis on design, her jewellery is meant to be wearable, and not just for show. Jewellery, as she says, is functional, "it has to beautify the wearer, or make a statement about the wearers taste. I try to make it possible for people to wear my jewellery without trouble."

Ms. Masry will give a workshop on New Jewellery Design with the Dana Nature Reserve Project on Wednesday, May 13. Both Ms. Masry's jewellery and Mr. Tabbaa's sculptures will be exhibited until May 25.



Two pieces of Suzanne Masry's work

Editors at weekly newspaper detained

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chief and managing editors of Sawt Al Mara weekly were arrested Wednesday evening by security forces, the weekly's publisher Jamal Muhtaseb said Friday.

Security forces did not give any reason for the arrests at the time, family members said.

According to Mr. Muhtaseb, Editor-in-Chief Atef Atneh and Managing Editor Ayman Rumameh were taken from their homes late Wednesday evening "because of an article the paper ran in a recent edition."

The article included an interview with deputy Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, a harsh critic of government

policies. The weekly ran a headline on its cover page quoting Dr. Abbadi as saying: "It's time the director of the intelligence department left."

Dr. Abbadi praised the intelligence department but said "the director holds a personal grudge against me and I don't know why."

Meanwhile, Dr. Abbadi praised Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as a very democratic and honest man, but said Dr. Majali's cabinet "seems incapable of performing its duties to the fullest."

Mr. Muhtaseb said Mr. Atef Atneh was questioned by security forces last week about the interview with Deputy Abbadi.

Mr. Atneh's brother told the Jordan Times that the attorney general issued a search and an arrest warrant against his brother which attributed the arrest to the interview with Deputy Abbadi.

Earlier this year and during the Lower House of Parliament discussion of the 1998 budget, Dr. Abbadi, who is a former police officer, lashed out at government policies and accused past and present governments of nepotism, favouritism and "putting the wrong man in the wrong position."

He also accused ministers and their aides of wasting millions of dinars and driving the country towards an abyss.

Italian NGO begins development programme targeting disabled refugees

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Italian humanitarian organisation, in its first development project in the Kingdom, is aiming to rehabilitate disabled people in the country's refugee camps, provide them with humanitarian aid and train them to be productive members of the community.

The Rome-based group Movimondo also aims to train teachers and families on how to create a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) project in order to help disabled people, according to Laura Sapoulo, the project coordinator.

"One of the project's main principles is to prove that humans are more important than anything else," she told the Jordan Times in a recent

interview. "The project aims to give such people feelings of belonging, self-esteem and security, because the community sometimes considers them as something to be ashamed of."

Movimondo was established in Jordan four months ago, and began this programme last month in the Wihdat, Hiteen, and Talbia refugee camps, she added.

The plan includes an introduction to Movimondo's policies, public awareness campaigns for residents, and training courses for people working in community centres for rehabilitation (CCR), followed by orientation programmes on CBR, Ms. Sapoulo said.

In the next stage, Movimondo is planning to carry out a survey to prepare accurate statistics on disabled

people in order to supply them with necessary equipment for income-generating projects.

"We have good relations with the local people because we do not consider ourselves as donors, but their partners in working hand in hand, taking decisions, and achieving sustainable development," Ms. Sapoulo said.

She added that this project is totally funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), but at the present the budget has not been finalised because the programme is still in its first stage.

According to Movimondo's annual report, the organisation launched a similar project in the Gaza Strip in 1995, and has contributed to the creation of a centre for

physiotherapy and rehabilitation for the disabled. The centre is run by the Society of Physically Handicapped People (SPHP) in Gaza whose numbers include more than two thousand disabled persons.

Movimondo is a non-governmental organisation which was established in 1972. It is active in 15 developing countries and aims to fight against poverty, protect human rights, promote global culture, international cooperation, solidarity, and sustainable development, and strengthen local institutions to create conditions of participation and self-determination.

It concentrates most of its activities in Southern Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Middle East.

Kofi Annan under more fire during Rwanda visit

MULIRE, Rwanda (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan pressed ahead Friday with his troubled visit to Rwanda, braving hecklers at a memorial site to the 1994 genocide following his icy reception in Kigali.

"We waited for Kofi Annan's U.N., but it never came," shouted Charles Butera, a survivor of the 1994 civil war, when extremist Hutus slaughtered between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

"You have piled evil upon evil," Mr. Butera shouted at Annan as he toured Mulire, in the eastern prefecture of Kibungu — site of an April 18, 1994, massacre of civilians by the Hutu-dominated former Rwandan armed forces.

Mr. Annan laid a floral tribute at a metal-roofed barn in Mulire, housing the several hundred skulls and human bones that serve as a memorial to the slaughter.

Mr. Annan was given a rough ride on his arrival in Rwanda Thursday, with government leaders accusing him of arrogance over the U.N.'s alleged failure to respond to the 1994 genocide.

Taking exception to a speech Mr. Annan delivered in the Rwandan parliament earlier, President Pasteur Bizimungu, Vice President Paul Kagame and Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigyema all boycotted the planned dinner in his honor Thursday evening.

Rwandan Education and Youth Minister Jacques Bihuzagara, who accompanied Mr. Annan to Mulire, said that the international community had to accept full responsibility for failing to act in Rwanda and that the people "expected compensation."

"The international community shares your sadness and your tragedy," Mr. Annan responded. "Your sadness is ours."

your tragedy is ours," he said, while reiterating that the U.N.'s policy of non-intervention in Rwanda had been forced by the unwillingness of the international community at large to get involved in the conflict.

Before leaving Kigali Friday morning, Mr. Annan laid another wreath at a small cemetery on the outskirts of the capital, which serves as a memorial to another massacre in the early days of the genocide, when the victims were left unguarded by U.N. troops.

Before Mr. Annan even embarked on his current eight-nation African tour, Rwanda had been clearly flagged as the most difficult stopover, given the intense anger that still pervades the country over the international community's unwillingness to take a major portion of blame for the genocide.

Although Mr. Annan admitted during his speech to parliament Thursday that

the world had shirked its responsibilities over Rwanda, deputies offered only perfunctory applause and later dismissed his remarks as insufficient and pressed demands for the whole truth on the U.N.'s role in 1994.

Mr. Annan, who was in charge of U.N. peacekeeping operations at the time of the Rwandan civil war, was accused by the New Yorker magazine last Monday of having failed to halt the killings.

The magazine charged that Mr. Annan had ordered U.N. Blue Helmets in Rwanda not to intervene despite a warning of the impending genocide three months in advance by Major General Romeo Dallaire, the U.N. commander.

Wednesday, an association of genocide survivors in Kigali demanded that Mr. Annan "explain himself" over the world body's inaction.



United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, accompanied by his Swedish wife Nane (center), visits the Nyanza graveyard for the victims of a massacre of thousands of Tutsis killed during the 1994 genocide (Reuters photo)

Ethnic Albanian leader Rugova wants independent Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova reiterated Friday that independence was the best solution for the troubled Serbian Kosovo province, a demand rejected by the international community.

"The best solution is independent Kosovo with all guarantees for Serbs and other nationalities (living in the province) and with an international civil protectorate as a transitional phase," Mr. Rugova told reporters in the Kosovo capital Pristina.

He also repeated his movement's readiness to hold talks with the Belgrade authorities "in a third country with an international presence."

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has so far rejected any international mediation in the Kosovo conflict.

However, he seems ready

to accept a mission by former Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, aimed at normalising relations between Yugoslavia and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Mr. Rugova described the situation in Kosovo as "grave and tense."

He said the Yugoslav army was continuing a build-up on the border with Albania while "Serbian police were 'besieging villages' in the central Drenica and Klina region, in the west of Kosovo around Decan and in the north around Kosovska Mitrovica."

He demanded that the Serbian authorities cease their military and police activity in the province and urged "preventive action by the international community."

Mr. Rugova also called on ethnic Albanians in the

province "to show self-restraint" to keep from drawing Kosovo "into a cycle of violence."

More than 130 people, most of them ethnic Albanians, have been killed since the beginning of this year, as victims of bloody attacks or clashes between Serbian security forces and Albanian armed rebels.

The province, which has a 90 per cent Albanian majority, "enjoyed autonomy in the old federal Yugoslavia but this was revoked in 1989 under Mr. Milosevic's Serbian leadership."

The international community has shied away from backing full independence for Kosovo, preferring some solution within the present rump federal Yugoslavia.

But Mr. Rugova praised U.S. President Bill Clinton's "permanent commitment" to a solution of the Kosovo crisis.

Attack on Russia still possible, Yeltsin warns officers

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's military reforms will not undermine the country's defence capability, President Boris Yeltsin told army officers Friday, warning that aggression against Russia could not be ruled out.

"I am sure that this army reform will not impair Russia's potential for effective deterrence, including nuclear deterrence, and for repelling aggression if necessary," Yeltsin said at the Kremlin meeting.

"We cannot afford simply to rule out such aggression," he told the senior officers from various branches of the armed forces.

Mr. Yeltsin said the reforms were aimed at creating "numerically smaller but efficient armed forces and other forces, armed with advanced hardware and well trained."

"These are tough but achievable targets," he added.

In its reform programme, the Russian government plans to slash troop strength by 500,000 to 1.2 million by the end of 1998, abolish conscription and create an efficient, mobile, professional army.

Military experts say the targets set by the government are over — ambitious, and the army will be struggling to finance such a major reform.

Indian defence minister's anti-China stand dismissed by army chief

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's army chief has dismissed Defence Minister George Fernandes' anti-China stand, a daily said Friday, as Communists renewed calls for the sacking of the Socialist leader.

General V.P. Malik was quoted by the Hindustan Times as saying that Mr. Fernandes' comments on China did not matter.

The daily said he "virtually scoffed" at Mr. Fernandes' description of China, with whom India fought a border war in 1962 leading to a freeze in relations for 14 years, as a "threat number one."

Gen. Malik recalled a visit last month by People's Liberation Army chief General Gu Quanyou to India, saying: "The chief of army staff of China and myself have recently met and relations between the two countries are improving."

"Mr. Fernandes' statement does not matter," he added.

The Communist Party of India Marxist renewed a demand for Mr. Fernandes' sacking, saying he was working on "some personal agenda."

"No defence minister has a right to make his personal ideas the agenda for the country and Fernandes has already said his remarks on China were his personal views," party General Secretary Vinod Mishra said.

Mr. Mishra said the minister had made "irresponsible" statements on neighbouring China, Bangladesh and Myanmar, creating a wedge in ties "which fulfils American interests."

Mr. Fernandes, whose Socialist Party is a minority partner in India's new Hindu nationalist-led coalition, Thursday said: "We have to strengthen our border with China. There cannot be any lessening of our

defence priorities as far as China is concerned."

The minister, however, refused to comment on his earlier charges Beijing had supplied missile technology to Pakistan.

China reacted sharply again Thursday denying it was a military threat to India, saying the allegation was "ridiculous and not worthy of refutation."

Mr. Fernandes' Samata (Equality) Party said it would carry out a nationwide awareness campaign about the "potential threat from China," party General Secretary Shivanand Tewari was quoted as saying.

Mr. Tewari said the "elitist class" had traditionally tried to appease China, adding: "This attitude of hushing up the threat had led the Chinese to attack the country in 1962."

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, headed the government when the Indo-Chinese war broke out. Mr. Nehru had espoused a pro-China policy and even coined a slogan "Indians and Chinese are brothers."

Mr. Fernandes Wednesday expressed his "commitment on the ongoing dialogue between New Delhi and Beijing," in an apparent softening of his claim that China was the main threat to India and had deployed nuclear weapons in Tibet.

India says China still holds 40,000 square kilometers of its territory in Kashmir. China lays claim to a swathe of Indian territory in the far eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mr. Fernandes last month accused China of building a military airfield on Indian territory and helping Pakistan — with which India has waged three wars — to develop a surface-to-surface missile.

Taleban capture strategic town in northern Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Taleban militia have captured an important district in northern Afghanistan after heavy fighting with troops of opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood, a report said Friday.

The Islamic militia seized the district headquarters of Ishkermish in northeastern Takhar province and 15 surrounding villages after heavy fighting late Thursday, the Taleban's Consul General Maulvi Najibullah was quoted as saying by Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

He told AIP the fall of Ishkermish also threatened the road between Mr. Masood's Panjshir valley headquarters and Taloqan, capital of Takhar province.

Independent confirmation of the report was not immediately available.

Staff at humanitarian organisations returning here from northern Afghanistan Friday said the two sides were engaged in heavy fighting in the Bangi area near Ishkermish.

Mr. Najibullah said nine opposition troops were killed and 25 arrested in Thursday's fighting. He gave no details of Taleban losses.

The diplomat, based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar bordering Afghanistan, said the militia fighters also captured 40 vehicles from forces loyal to Afghan ex-Defence Minister Mr. Masood.

However, the eastern flank of the district was still in the hands of Mr. Masood's forces, the private news service AIP said.

Afghan sources said the

attack on Ishkermish was mounted by Taleban troops based in the northern Baghlan province, while skirmishes were also continuing in the Bangi front opened last week.

AIP has reported a series of clashes between Taleban and Mr. Masood forces in the Bangi area, following last Sunday's collapse of intra-Afghan peace talks in Pakistan.

An opposition spokesman earlier denied Taleban claims of gains in Bangi, saying the frontlines remained unchanged since the peace talks were suspended indefinitely over the Taleban's refusal to lift a blockade of the central Hazarajat region. The northern alliance said the refusal undermined an agreement reached in five-day talks to set up a 40-member commission of Islamic scholars to end the civil war.

The Islamic militia Wednesday allowed the shipment of 1,000 tonnes of food to the famine-hit region of Hazarajat by the United Nations.

The Taleban called on the U.N. to ensure the food supply reaches only civilians in the opposition-held region, inhabited by 1.2 million people.

The Taleban seized Kabul in September 1996 and now control two-thirds of Afghanistan, while several northern provinces are held by the opposition alliance which includes forces of the ousted Afghan government, the Hezb-i-Wahdat Muslim faction and ethnic Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

East Timor protesters bail up Australian foreign minister

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — About 25 East Timor demonstrators trapped Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer in his car Friday, swarming over the vehicle in a tense quarter-hour standoff.

The demonstrators were waiting at the back entrance of Melbourne University's School of Business, where Mr. Downer was to address a conference on the Asian crisis.

After hurling red paint and fake dollar notes outside the entrance, the angry protesters formed a human barrier around the car when it arrived and police had to force their way through.

Speaking after his address, an unruffled Mr. Downer said he always defended the right of people to demonstrate as long as it was peaceful.

"I instructed the driver not to drive forward until the police arrived," he told reporters.

After Mr. Downer went inside, demonstrators lay in front of both entrances. "We're making sure he steps over our bodies to symbolise the dead people he has stepped over in East Timor," Melbourne University's Student Union President Shelley Marshall said.

Mr. Downer left from a side entrance, pursued by demonstrators who thumped the vehicle before police caught up.

Australia is a main centre for activists promoting the cause of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which was invaded and then annexed by Indonesia in a move never recognised by the United Nations.

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Mudslide toll in Italy hits 77 dead, 208 missing

ROME (AFP) — Seventy seven people were killed in the mudslides which engulfed several villages in southern Italy this week, according to the latest toll issued Friday.

Earlier the civil defence headquarters in Rome had said 208 people were still missing and 1,700 people had been left homeless in the disaster Tuesday night east of Naples.

Sixty of the dead came from the town of Sarno, and the rest from neighbouring hillside villages, six from Quindici, five each from Siano and Braconiano and one from San Felice Cancelli.

Figures being given out for the number of people missing vary widely as nobody knows exactly how many people were in the area at the time of the catastrophe.

Rescue operations were continuing Friday in the stricken area which is in the Campania region.

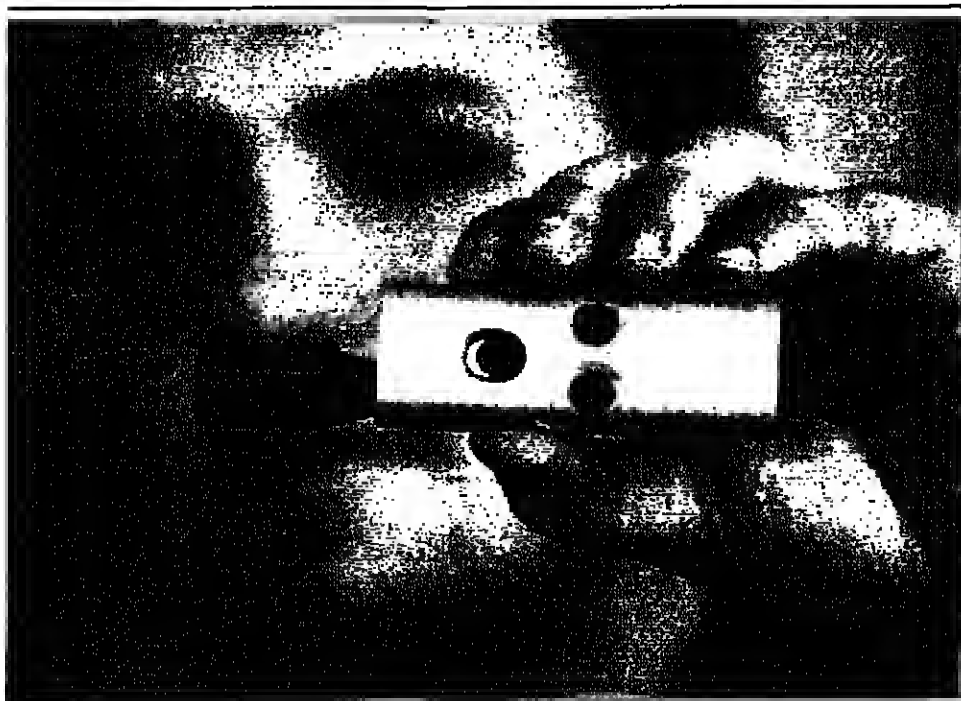
Pet dog kills boy as mother gives birth

PRAGUE (AFP) — An 11-year-old boy was killed by the family's pet dog on the same day that his mother was giving birth, police said Friday.

The tragedy happened

Wednesday in the town of Javornik when the dog, a bulldog-mastiff cross-breed, attacked the boy, hitting his head and face. He died of shock, doctors said.

Both men have been



An owner of an arms shop in Sofia shows a tiny pistol with its detachable silencer (right) able to shoot .32-caliber cartridges that looks like a key chain (AFP photo)

'Key-ring gun cannot kill'

SOFIA (AFP) — A Bulgarian key-ring gun which has sparked security alarm bells in airports around the world cannot kill, its manufacturer said Friday.

Experts have reportedly said that the gun, which can pass undetected through airport security screens, can fire live rounds and could be fatal at a distance of up to 20 metres.

But maker Victor Stayev told the Standard newspaper that the gun, which is widely available in Bulgaria, would explode in the hand if the user tried to fire real bullets.

"The key-ring mini-pistol is designed to fire gas cartridges or blanks. It is a lie to say that a terrorist could use it to fire real bullets. In that case the device would explode in the hand," he said.

According to reports in London and New York, Interpol has called on airports worldwide to be on the lookout for the tiny guns, which measure 7.5 by 2.5 centimetres.

The gun risks avoiding security checks because the user can put it in a basket of items from his pockets which does not go through a scanner.

A passenger, who promptly fled, was found carrying a key-ring gun of this type at London's Heathrow in December, the British press said Thursday, adding similar weapons had been seized in Perth, Australia, and Athens.

The daily Express said the gun, which is attached to a key-ring and costs \$20, fires .32 calibre bullets and experts said it would be

accurate to a distance of up to 18 metres.

Mr. Stayev said the gun is sold worldwide, and alleged that reports sparking alarm about the device were due to business rivals in the United States.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the gun could be used by hijackers and terrorists.

The report also said that Interpol had warned its 177 member countries about the device, saying it is "readily available" in southern Europe.

"It is fairly innocuous to look at," Australian customs Director Brian Hurrell told the daily. "It doesn't look like a weapon. If you showed it to airport security, they would probably think it's a key ring."

Death toll rises to 33 in Philippine elections

MANILA (AFP) — The death toll in the run-up to Philippine elections climbed to 33 Friday, officials said, without providing details of the incidents.

A total of 33 had been killed and 31 injured, said the country's independent Commission on Elections, as more than 100,000 hopefuls fight for jobs ranging from president to local town councillor.

About 17,300 political posts are up for grabs in Monday's polls. The focus is on the battle for the presidency, which

Fidel Ramos must give up under the constitution after his six-year term. But local elections have fuelled most of the violence.

The elections, which have turned the baking-hot capital Manila into a sea of campaign posters covering even tree branches, had claimed the lives of 27 people and injured 31 by Thursday.

In the latest flare-up, an unknown attacker blew up a helicopter with a launched grenade just moments after three aides of a candidate for Congress had disembarked, officials said.

The Hughes helicopter was carrying three aides of Congressman Olong Saludo and a pilot when it landed in Maasin town in the central island of Leyte Thursday, a transport official said. No one was hurt.

In the last elections in 1992, 56 people were killed and 138 wounded.

Vice President Joseph Estrada, head of the opposition camp, is the clear leader in polls for the presidential race with an 18 percentage point advantage over Mr. Ramos' candidate, House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Japan appeals verdict ordering payment to S. Korean wartime sex slaves

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese government Friday appealed against a court decision ordering it to pay compensation to three South Korean women forced to serve as sex slaves for the Imperial Army during World War II.

The government said it is appeal that the verdict last month by the District Court "clearly goes against past decisions of the Supreme Court."

On April 27, the district court in western Japan ordered the government to pay 100 million yen (\$7.6 million) to the three Korean women. It was the first court ruling obliging Tokyo to compensate the wartime victims, known as "comfort women."

The Taleban called on the U.N. to ensure the food supply reaches only civilians in the opposition-held region, inhabited by 1.2 million people.

The Taleban seized Kabul in September 1996 and now control two-thirds of Afghanistan, while several northern provinces are held by the opposition alliance which includes forces of the ousted Afghan government, the Hezb-i-Wahdat Muslim faction and ethnic Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

Minister Justice Shimomura told a new conference today: "The court decision, which recognized the responsibility of the state government, preceded by the Supreme Court."

Some 200 young women, mostly from Korea, but also from China, the Philippines and elsewhere — where some girls were also kidnapped — served Japanese army brothels.

Japan has refused to pay direct compensation to make an official apology to South Korean women, insisting the issue was settled by the 1965 treaty between the two countries.

Japan has offered privately-raised funds to former comfort women in South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, but it only angered the neighbouring countries who demand official compensation.

Police round up 80 Sicilians suspected mafiosi

ANANIA, Italy (AFP) — Italian police said today they had rounded up 80 suspected mafiosi in a massive sweep in Sicily.

Some 400 police from the eastern Sicilian city of Catania took part in the roundup overnight Sunday, which involved members of the clan, suspected of a series of armed robberies, including one in which a 10-year-old child was killed.

The police were issued with 121 arrest warrants and 20 of them for people already serving prison sentences for crimes.

Among those arrested were senior members of the Capello clan, which has been implicated in drug trafficking, racketeering and extortion.

Charges relating to an internal family feud fuelled a series of killings.

Both men have been

Over 1,000 Borneo kids the flagging in the archipelago

Score studies

JAK ARTA: A group of children in a village in Borneo, Indonesia, are being studied by a team of researchers.

Security forces and police are trying to prevent the spread of the disease in the village.

Minister Health Shimo-ura told a new conference today: "The court decision, which recognized the responsibility of the state government, preceded by the Supreme Court."

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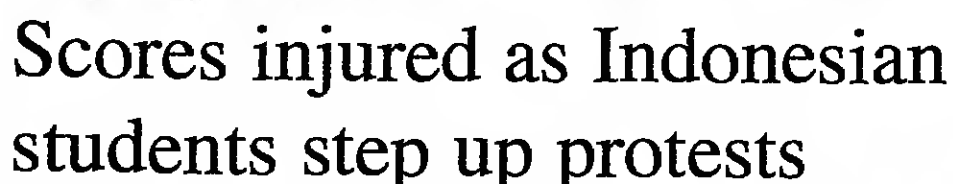
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Charges relating to an internal family feud fuelled a series of killings.

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Some also face murder charges relating to an internal family feud that fuelled a series of killings.



But his plea fell on deaf ears Friday, with thousands taking up a clarification call for Mr. Suharto to end three decades of iron-fisted rule.

The first case, a 38-year-old man, was stopped in the street overnight Thursday and shot several times in the knees and ankles, a police said.

The second, a 26-year-old, was grabbed by unidentified men in a car who shot him in the leg before dumping him on the roadside.

Both men have been hospitalized.

Although informers are the primary targets, drug traffickers, rapists and paedophiles have also been on the receiving end.

Around 16 suspected "punishment" shootings have been carried out in Northern Ireland since the signing of peace accords last month.

The news agency cited Russian deputy flight chief Viktor Blagov as saying the gradual descent of Mr. originally planned for later this month, would now not go ahead until the end of June.

Mr. Blagov told the agency it would be too cost-

to 150 kilometres, at which point it will be abandoned by its crew and burnt up in the lower layers of the atmosphere.

Mir has been in action for 2 years and is to be replaced by the International Space Station (ISS).

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Hope for Sudanese

THE ACCORD struck in Nairobi between the Sudanese government and leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Army is remarkable on two counts. First, the settlement of the conflict between Khartoum and the rebels is going to be based on the result of a referendum in which the southern Sudanese will decide whether to stay in the union or secede. Second, it represents one of the rare occasions in which a developing country resorts to the principle of self-determination to resolve an ethnic conflict.

For Sudan to leap forward and apply the mother of all human rights, the right to self-determination, albeit belatedly, is indeed commendable by any standard. The fact that the projected referendum will be held under international supervision is solid evidence that Khartoum is serious about its offer. No nation in contemporary history has accepted to go that far at the risk of dismembering itself.

The southern Sudanese and their leaders have so far expressed their desire to remain part of the greater Sudan. Whether they will still opt for that is at the moment not clear. But whatever decision they reach must be respected not only because it would ensure them their rights but also end years of strife and bloodshed and spare Khartoum the resources it has so far been spending on war.

In the run up to the referendum it is important now to agree upon a ceasefire to enable humanitarian relief to reach the people in the south who are threatened with famine. To further encourage the Sudanese authorities in their quest for peace it is high time to lift the string of sanctions placed on that country by the West.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi praised the Palestinian National Authority for its adherence to the peace process and its wisdom in accepting the American proposals on the withdrawal from the West Bank. The writer said the Palestinian stand helped embarrass the Israeli prime minister and paved the way for a direct confrontation between him and the U.S. administration. However, the London meetings are not over yet, the venue has been shifted to Washington next week during which more pressure is expected to be exerted on Netanyahu to make him comply with the requirements of peace, said the writer. The London meeting showed the world in general and the U.S. and Europe in particular that it is Netanyahu who is obstructing peace by rejecting Washington's ideas for the implementation of the Oslo accord, according to the writer. The London meeting, Rimawi said, resulted in a U.S. stand favourable to the Palestinians as Madeleine Albright has clung hard to the U.S. proposals and expressed determination for their implementation.

Al Arah Al Yawm's Nicola Naser reflected on American aid to Israel and the Arab region, particularly Jordan. He said, according to USAID Director Brian Atwood, Jordan received \$2.2 billion from the U.S. in aid since 1990 but in contrast Israel received \$77.7 billion in the same period although the Kingdom is in more need of aid for its development than Israel. The writer said that while the American aid to Jordan has been directed to encourage it to maintain peace with Israel and to help it carry out family planning programmes, U.S. aid to Israel helped the Jewish state build up a formidable arsenal of conventional and weapons of mass destruction and maintain its hold on the Arab World and perpetuate its occupation of territories belonging to three Arab states. He said Jordan should reexamine the U.S. aid programme in that it must be linked to helping the Kingdom attain sustainable development and should be directed in a manner that would help end the arms race and establish genuine and lasting peace.

Jordanian Perspective

Western powers continue to manipulate Palestinian situation

By Dr. Musa Keilani

IT WAS no surprise that the much-heralded London talks failed to lift the logjam in the Israeli-Palestinian track of the peace process. The writing was on the wall since the day British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his "initiative" of hosting the meetings of Israeli, Palestinian and American leaders that it was an exercise aimed at securing Palestinian acceptance of the down-sized Israeli offer of a redeployment in the West Bank. Applying pressure on Israel to abide by its obligations and commitments was never in the cards, and hence it dismayed not many in this part of the world that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood firm on his ground, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat found nothing dramatic or even new in the London talks.

Obviously, the next step in the exercise is a round of Washington meetings, and we have little hope of achieving a breakthrough there either. Of course, if anything, the London talks offered a face-saving formula for the Clinton administration to invite Netanyahu to Washington — for the sake of salvaging the peace process, of course, as we have been told — after going through another period of "strain" in relations between President Bill Clinton and Netanyahu. Well, if it was true that there was indeed such a "strain," then it had nothing to do with the peace process. If the "strain" was rooted in American frustration over Netanyahu's refusal to abide by his country's agree-

ments with the Palestinians, then we wonder why Washington chose to overlook that frustration and continue to play the Israeli tune.

Washington watchers, pro-Israeli, anti-Israeli and neutral alike, are convinced there is no such thing as American pressure on Israel; there never was, is or will be. The Palestinians would be better off to stop in their track for a moment before accepting that the Washington talks would "accelerate" the "final status" negotiations. Such acceleration would only result in hasty agreements under pressure leading to the deprivation of most of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in the end. It does not require an expert to see that as long as the government of Netanyahu remains in power in Israel, the Palestinians might as well sit back doing nothing except accelerating, whatever little way they could, the political demise of Netanyahu and his likes from the Israeli scene.

The present forces in power in Israel have yet to come to terms with the reality that peace with the Arabs is conditional on honouring the rights of the Palestinians, and it is unlikely that the politically-immature Netanyahu is the right person to lead the Israeli right-wing into accepting that reality. As such, the scepticism that we have, like most others who want a just, comprehensive and lasting peace agreement in the Middle East, is quite justified. We do not expect the Washington meetings to provide any

dramatic breakthroughs, but the danger is that more pressure will be exerted on Arafat to accept whatever Netanyahu is willing to offer in return for some token gestures like a final okay for the building of a Palestinian airport at Gaza and perhaps a "safe passage" between Gaza and the West Bank.

The long and short of what we have seen so far since the signing of the interim agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis is a pattern of American and European — British to be more accurate — efforts to manoeuvre the Palestinians into a situation where they are left with little choice but to accept the Israeli version of a solution to the problem. What is even more irksome is the hypocritical declarations of support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people while we all know that the Palestinian negotiating position is weak by virtue of Israel's physical control of the Palestinian territories in question and the inability of the Arabs to force a military showdown to wrench control of the land.

Instead of issuing such misleading declarations, the powers at work for "peace" in the Middle East — a peace that is cooked and spiced in Israel's kitchen — would do us all a big favour by affirming that their objective is not to bring about justice and international legitimacy in the region but to serve the Israeli goal of forcing its solution down the Palestinian throat.

U.S. not prepared to lose political capital over peace process stalemate, says former official

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON — "In the United States and Israel, politics has taken over. It's sad, because we have a situation today where we have a second-term president who could really, I think, get some significant things accomplished (in the Middle East) but to do that, you must be willing to spend some political capital, and so far, at least, the (Clinton) administration has not indicated it's willing to do that."

This damaging commentary on U.S. foreign policy came while U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was holding separate meetings in London with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on ways to revive the comatose Middle East peace process.

The speaker was James Baker, the former American secretary of state and architect of the Madrid peace process, who was speaking May 4 to a closed group at a plush Washington hotel two blocks from the White House.

The United States today, he continued, "is not doing what we historically must do if there's going to be what we historically have done and what we must do if there's going to be progress toward peace in the Middle East. Indeed, we almost seem to be paralysed, almost impotent."

He continued: "We are paralysed about putting (the U.S.) position out there on the table. The United States is entitled to have a position on these matters. We have significant and substantial interests in the Middle East. Those interests do not always accord exactly with the interests of the state of Israel."

While stressing that the United States is "irrevocably, absolutely, and unconditionally committed to the security of Israel," Baker thought that the United States should still be able to say:

"Look, it is the view of the honest broker,

it is the view of the United States, as the only country in the world that can really move this process forward, that there ought to be a 13.1 per cent withdrawal" from the occupied Palestinian territories.

He seemed indignant that the United States is "afraid" to confirm this American position which has been leaked to the press.

Baker defended Secretary Madeleine Albright for whom he said he has great respect and noted her statement to the New York Times last month in which she told the interviewer: "Don't believe those who say there is a (Mideast) peace process. That's not the situation. There is a real problem, and the United States is losing its credibility

and cognizant of "domestic politics," particularly the Israeli lobby.

There was further evidence of that in the attitude of the Clinton administration toward Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

A column in the Washington Post last week pointed out that Clinton, guided by Berger, had pigeonholed a 1992 warning by then President George Bush that threatened U.S. "military force" if Milosevic destabilised Kosovo where the overwhelmingly dominant Albanian ethnic population was subjected to a killing spree.

Columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak saw this as a "major policy change,"

There is currency to the view here that Secretary Albright appears handcuffed on the Middle East and that more and more foreign policy decisions are being dictated from the White House, especially by National Security Adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger, who is described as cautious and cognizant of "domestic politics," particularly the Israeli lobby.

ty among all the parties involved."

After describing Albright's assessment as "fairly sad," Baker added: "In my view, Secretary Albright would like to be far more forward-leaning with respect to the Middle East peace process than she is currently able to be."

There is currency to the view here that Secretary Albright appears handcuffed on the Middle East and that more and more foreign policy decisions are being dictated from the White House, especially by National Security Adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger, who is described as cau-

that greatly reduces ...Albright's diplomatic freedom of action." They added:

"That spells trouble for U.S. foreign policy. Coming on the heels of Albright's losing battle with Clinton and Berger over her appeal to pressure Israel on Mideast peace, she now risks being marginalised. Important decisions are being made not by Albright but by the president on Berger's advice, apparently from the narrow perspective of domestic politics."

They wrote, "Clinton is bred to the game of domestic politics, not foreign policy. With the midterm election six months away,

the last thing the president wants is American casualties in a faraway place."

Moreover, the extent to which Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, a presidential aspirant, would go in currying favour with the Israelis and the American Jewish community was starkly clear to readers of the Washington Post over the weekend.

Thomas W. Lippman, who travelled with the vice president during his just-concluded Mideast tour, began a Jerusalem-dated story thusly:

"If Vice President Gore runs for the top job in 2000, he can be confident that no rival will easily outflank him on the issue of support for Israel."

"Here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish state, Gore wowed Israeli and American audiences with passionate affirmations of his commitment and admiration, his rhetoric flowing with biblical references and citations of Old Testament prophets."

In reply to a question from this reporter, Baker underlined that it is "essential" that the United States assume a strong leadership role. "Only the United States, after all, with our unique relationship with Israel and the special role that we now occupy in world affairs, can serve as honest broker between Israelis and Arabs."

He continued: "But to do so, it's important that we maintain the integrity of our position by acting in a manner that is both objective and strong. From time to time, this is going to include telling truths that are going to upset one or more of the various parties."

"From time to time, it's going to involve the telling of truths that are going to be upsetting to the Arab side. From time to time, it's going to involve the telling of truths that are going to be upsetting to the Israeli side."

"And to put it as gently as I know how, this is not a task which has come naturally to the present administration."

'Netanyahu still to blame for peace process failures'

REVIEWED BY
 ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies last week highlighted the Palestinian-Israeli meeting in London, Israel's position with regard to withdrawals from the West Bank and Jordanian domestic issues.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek addressed the failure of the London meeting which grouped the Palestinians and the Israelis saying the result calls for a reassessment of the whole Middle East peace process on the part of the Arab Nation. Expressing the belief that the Middle East is now facing danger more than any time in the past, the writer said the reassessment is needed in view of the possibility of a new cycle of violence and new explosions that can erupt at any moment. The writer said the London meeting was more between the Americans and the Israelis than between the Palestinians and the Israelis as the U.S. tried hard to convince Netanyahu of its idea and plans to no avail. He said the U.S. has tried to cover up for the failure by shifting the talks to Washington in the coming week. But, he said, as long as the Jewish state remains intransigent the failure is bound to occur again.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Marwan

Hazine said the weakness of the U.S. secretary of state in handling Netanyahu's adamant stand prompted her to shift the meetings to Washington where perhaps more pressure can be exerted on the Israeli prime minister. But, Hazine said, deep down Secretary Albright realises that Netanyahu will continue to be deceitful and will try to escape from any pressure and therefore there is little hope that she will be able to persuade him to accept the U.S. proposals. The writer said Netanyahu has two options: to be committed genuinely towards peace and the implementation of the agreements with the Palestinians or continue to reject the calls for peace and so create an atmosphere that would lead to more destruction and more disasters. The writer said that so far the Americans have declined to present their plan officially to the Palestinians because Netanyahu rejects them outright, and in the Washington meeting the U.S. is perhaps hoping to pressure the Palestinians to accept less than 13.1 per cent as provided in the U.S. plan.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab expects Netanyahu to show a more defiant and adamant stand at the Washington party than in London because, he said, the Israeli prime minister is well assured of the U.S.

Congress' backing of his stand. The writer said the U.S. Congress is supporting Netanyahu in his drive to wreck the Oslo accords and force the Palestinians to give more concessions to the Israelis. By shifting the talks to Washington Secretary Albright has perhaps wanted to band over her failed mission to her boss, the

THE WEEK IN PRINT

U.S. president, and perhaps is hoping that the Palestinians will give way and accept Netanyahu's terms for a settlement and his own version of withdrawals from the West Bank. Since the Palestinians are determined to withstand the pressure, said the writer, it is a far gone conclusion that the Washington meeting will not meet a better fate than that which was held in London.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Taher Adwan tackled Israel's celebrations of the 50th anniversary of their state in Palestine saying as much delight the anniversary was to the Zionists it was equally

painful to the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians. In the celebrations the Israeli leaders spoke with pride about their victories in the war, about their occupation of Palestinian land, their military power and their achievements but they never uttered a word about the prospects of peace and the desire to build peace with their neighbours, noted the writer. The Israelis saw in the anniversary an opportunity for renewing their hostile stand towards the Arabs and for reasserting their aggressive stand and their intransigent position with regard to the peace accords, he added. But the Arabs on the other hand saw in this tragedy a reminder for them of their lost land and a moment to renew their resolve to regain their usurped rights.

Al Dustour's Nawaf Zaru said Israel's rejection of the American proposals and its determination to wreck the Oslo accords should prompt the Arab countries to take stock of the peace process and to try to find new priorities for collective action against Israel. The main priority, he said, is to halt the whole peace process which has been unproductive and has been exploited by the Israelis to strengthen their own stand. The Palestinians and the Arabs are in need of a new stand and a concerted

ed effort and a truce among their leaders so that the whole attention can be focused on the Palestine question, demanded the writer. He said unless the Arab countries take a very strong united stand at all levels, the Israelis will not budge from their present stubborn stand.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek reflected on a draft law on press and publications which the government is currently preparing to replace the 1993 law. He saw a good sign in Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour's recent statement that the new law would give more freedom to the press and would shift authority in dealing with violations from the government to the judiciary. The writer said no doubt the present law is far better than those prevailing in the other Arab states where freedoms almost do not exist. But, he said, Jordanians expect to see more freedoms from the press to cater to the requirements of the democratic process in the Kingdom. He said Jordanians should not stop in the middle of the road towards the fulfilment of democracy, and the new law should end such penalties as imprisonment of journalists. The writer said the whole world is watching Jordan to see if it is sincere towards the fulfilment of democracy.

Features

New leaf world's

By Dale Gavlak

GAZA, Egypt — Egypt is hoping that an operation performed on "the old sick person on Earth" will revive the fortunes of the country's terrorist tourism trade.

The government is making preparations for an international gala event to celebrate the restoration of the Sphinx at Giza, the world's oldest famous edifice — 242 feet long and 66 feet high, with the head of a pharaoh and the body of a lion. When the final stone was set on the 50th anniversary project, Dr Zaki Badawi, custodian of the statue, had tears in his eyes.

"Perhaps I'm the only one who felt the smile of the Sphinx on the day," said Hawass, director of the Giza Museum, who felt a personal responsibility for ensuring that the restoration work was carried out properly.

There was no ceremony at the time a scaffolding was removed last November, because of the terrorist attack in Luxor the month before in which 58 tourists were killed. The festival made any sort of celebration inappropriate. Now, with security heightened and most countries lifting bans on travel to Egypt, Cairo can go ahead with plans to reveal the newly repaired statue for the first time.

The Sphinx is Egypt's national symbol and its top tourist attraction. It is the most needed restoration. Flakes of stone have been falling from its chest, while its head has crumbled from its body. The restoration project had already contributed to the Sphinx's deterioration. The use of cement had particularly damaging because it eroded the limestone. Modern materials such as pollution and bubbles from four buses, had further shaken and weakened the statue. Hawass supervised the team of Egyptian labourers, artisans and archaeologists. They used 12,244 matched stones. The white limestone had to be renovated the best way.

The Saturday

BACK TO THE WALL

By Susan Delgado, Topeka, Kansas

100	Came up	101	Down
102	Promised land	102	Down
103	Acad	103	Down
104	Fence-clearing	104	Down
105	Poem divisions	105	Down
106	Resistance units	106	Down
107	NFL crunch time	107	Down
108	Chess pieces	108	Down
109	Green aquarium	109	Down
110	Bubbles	110	Down
111	Tail pile	111	Down
112	Permit	112	Down
113	Belle's start	113	Down
114	Hill and Goodman	114	Down
115	Troublers	115	Down
116	Time made	116	Down
117	Mile from Madrid	117	Down
118	That's a shame	118	Down
119	Shower tucks	119	Down
120	Shower tucks	120	Down
121	Shower tucks	121	Down
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149	Shower tucks	149	Down
150	Shower tucks	150	Down

Features

New lease of life for world's oldest invalid

By Dale Gavlak

GIZA, Egypt — Egypt is hoping that an operation performed on "the oldest sick person on Earth" will revive the fortunes of the country's terrorism-hit tourism trade.

The government is making preparations for an international gala event to celebrate the restoration of the Great Sphinx of Giza, the world's most famous colossus — 242 feet long and 66 feet high, with the head of a pharaoh and the body of a lion.

When the final stone was set on the left paw of the Sphinx, marking the end of a 10-year project, Dr. Zahi Hawass, custodian of the statue, had tears in his eyes.

"Perhaps I'm the only one who felt the smile of the Sphinx on the day," says Hawass, director of the Giza Plateau, who felt a personal responsibility for ensuring that the restoration work was carried out properly.

There was no ceremony at the time the scaffolding was removed last December, because of the terrorist attack in Luxor the month before in which 58 tourists were killed. The slaughter made any sort of celebration inappropriate. Now, with security tightened and most countries lifting bans on travel to Egypt, Cairo feels it can go ahead with plans to unveil the newly repaired statue formally.

The Sphinx is Egypt's national symbol and its top tourist attraction. But it badly needed restoring. Flakes had been falling from its chest, while stone blocks weighing hundreds of pounds had crumbled from its body.

Previous restoration projects had actually contributed to the Sphinx's deterioration. The use of cement had been particularly damaging because it had eroded the limestone. Modern-day irritants, such as pollution and vibrations from tour buses, had further shaken and weakened the statue. Hawass supervised the "team" of Egyptian "labourers, artisans" and archaeologists. They used "12,244 hand-chiselled, white limestone blocks to reovate the beast's paws,

legs and stomach. Their efforts cost \$2.5 million.

Hawass says they stopped the flaking of the chest by applying a special mixture of lime and sand, a process that will need to be repeated every five years. Underground water levels, which had been threatening the foundations, were reduced.

Restorers used computer modelling and other new methods to make the repairs as faithful as possible.

Previous restoration projects had actually contributed to the Sphinx's deterioration. The use of cement had been particularly damaging because it had eroded the limestone.

"We have to be near the Sphinx forever, because this is the oldest sick person on Earth. You cannot say that the Sphinx is safe and leave it," says Hawass. "The Sphinx is safe and smiling now because the job of restoration has been done very well."

They did not replace the statue's nose and beard, lost long ago. "The Sphinx is a ruin — we should keep it as a ruin," insists Hawass. "We did not really change anything on the Sphinx at all."

Although most tourists say they are pleased with the work, there are some detractors.

Andy Sylvester from Washington, D.C. said he was disappointed with the use of limestone blocks: "I wish they'd left the original body intact and not put all the blocks on there — it kind of makes it look cheap."

The Sphinx may have been safest while it was buried under centuries of sand. Believed to have been carved

on the instructions of the Pharaoh Chephren about 4,600 years ago, the statue was part of a temple complex — never completed — that stood in front of his immense pyramid, the second largest on the Giza Plateau.

According to legend, a young prince rediscovered the Sphinx, buried up to its neck in sand, while hunting gazelle. Weary, he took a nap in the statue's shadow and dreamt it offered him the crown of Egypt in return for restoration. The prince cleared away the sand, used limestone blocks to repair the body, and was later crowned Pharaoh Thutmose IV.

A more cynical interpretation is that Thutmose killed the heir to the throne and used the dream to legitimise his political ambitions. Whatever the case, Thutmose restored the colossus as a monument to the Egyptian empire. He immortalised his dream on a 14-tonne granite stele at the base of the Sphinx's chest.

Subsequent kings were crowned at the site, which became part of a religious cult. Other restorations were carried out by later pharaohs, and by the Romans, the French and the Egyptian government.

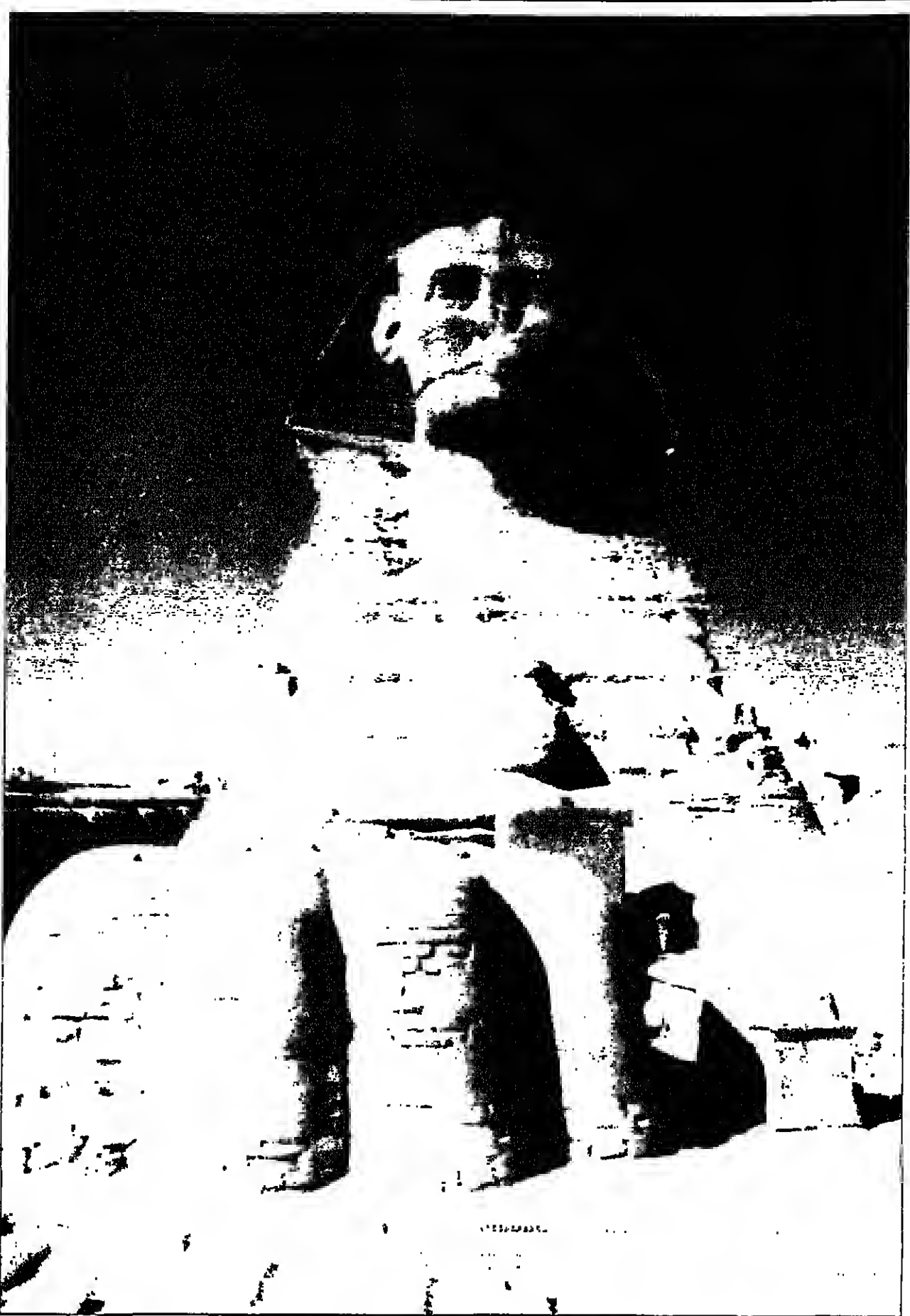
"The Sphinx is the archetype of mystery and antiquity," says archaeologist Mark Lehner of the University of Chicago, who spent five years studying, drawing and photographing every inch of the Sphinx. His work helped lay the basis for the present restoration.

"We look to the past for some kind of answers to how we got where we are," he adds. "There's need to see a secret something that will maybe answer the current dilemmas of the modern age."

Lehner is excavating a site just south of the Sphinx in search of more clues about the builders of the pyramids and their society.

The writer is a print and radio journalist who specialises in social and political issues. She has lived in the Middle East for 12 years.

— Gemini News

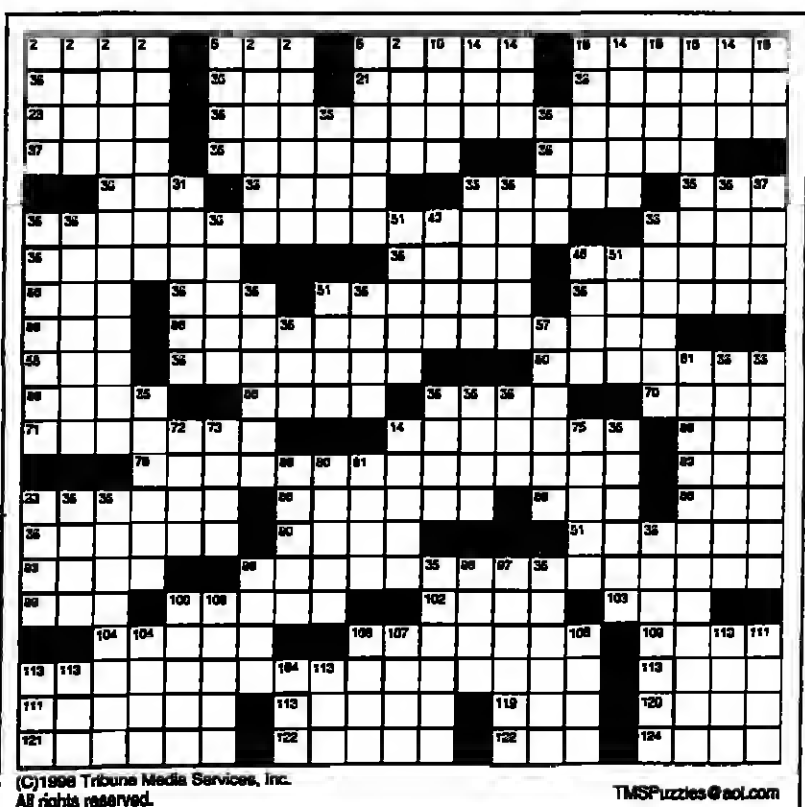


The Saturday Crossword

BACK TO THE WALL

By Susan Delgado, Topeka, Kansas

- ACROSS**
- 1 Promissory notes
 - 2 Zig's partner?
 - 3 One whist
 - 4 borealis
 - 5 Pinom
 - 6 Cambodia
 - 7 People of Nigeria
 - 8 Cocoon
 - 9 Andes animals
 - 10 Rabbit
 - 11 Baseball moment of truth
 - 12 Zeno of
 - 13 Knock off a mount
 - 14 Tibetan resident
 - 15 Civil liberties
 - 16 That e
 - 17 Smeared
 - 18 Tapered tucks
 - 19 Singer Damone
 - 20 When the cavalry arrives
 - 21 Hubcap
 - 22 Stick together
 - 23 Update rival of Vegas
 - 24 Of nerves
 - 25 Resembling: auct
 - 26 Martino and
 - 27 Pado
 - 28 Roman autocrat
 - 29 Tubb or Trux
 - 30 State of Australia
 - 31 Barely avoiding catastrophe
 - 32 Requirement for a UPCC abir
 - 33 Viol of hair-care products
 - 34 Publishers
 - 35 Painful
 - 36 Gordy's nation
 - 37 MDs
 - 38 Scheme
 - 39 Eagle-eyed fisherman
 - 40 New York resort
 - 41 Language ending
 - 42 Reprieved in the ring
 - 43 Barman portrayer
 - 44 Igniter
 - 45 Experience a flashback
 - 46 Southern phrase
 - 47 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
 - 48 Plz blowp
 - 49 McCoys' co-star
 - 50 Rictus
 - 51 Vocalized, like a melody
 - 52 Moment of truth
 - 53 Dry occupant
- DOWN**
- 1 dict
 - 2 Eye in Abx
 - 3 Just before the finish
 - 4 Escape a sword
 - 5 Domesticated ox
 - 6 God, in Hebrew
 - 7 Medieval
 - 8 Portuguese port
 - 9 Bee buzzes, e.g.
 - 10 Reimburse org.
 - 11 Clansy did
 - 12 Up until now
 - 13 Warning signal
 - 14 Arm bones
 - 15 Precipitation
 - 16 One who eats all
 - 17 Pink
 - 18 Last of a log
 - 19 Honky
 - 20 Employ
 - 21 Glacial pinnacles
 - 22 Shore of songs
 - 23 That's
 - 24 Lupino and Tarsell
 - 25 Stable youngster
 - 26 Frigidity
 - 27 Without
 - 28 Interruption
 - 29 "Glenn Schlicht"
 - 30 soprano
 - 31 Refrigerant
 - 32 Sample a sample
 - 33 Car maintenance
 - 34 check
 - 35 Beatty and
 - 36 Burnline
 - 37 Work units
 - 38 That certain
 - 39 Holiday preludes
 - 40 Reeked
 - 41 Guinness and
 - 42 Baldwin
 - 43 Bow and Barton
 - 44 Color changers
 - 45 One over par
 - 46 Chinese currency
 - 47 Speak roughly
 - 48 Pin box
 - 49 Bull of Texas
 - 50 Debar' cases
 - 51 Irish king, Brian
 - 52 Arkansas range



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TMSFuzzies@aol.com

- ANSWERS**
- 1 Across: PROMISSORY
 - 2 Down: ZIG
 - 3 Across: WHIST
 - 4 Down: BOREALIS
 - 5 Across: PINOM
 - 6 Down: CAMBODIA
 - 7 Across: NIGERIAN
 - 8 Down: COCOON
 - 9 Across: ANDEAN
 - 10 Down: RABBIT
 - 11 Across: BASEBALL
 - 12 Down: ZENO
 - 13 Across: KNOCK OFF
 - 14 Down: TIBETAN
 - 15 Across: CIVIL
 - 16 Down: LIBERTY
 - 17 Across: THAT
 - 18 Down: SMEAR
 - 19 Across: TUCKER
 - 20 Down: DAMONE
 - 21 Across: CAVALRY
 - 22 Down: HUBCAP
 - 23 Across: STICK TOGETHER
 - 24 Down: UPDATE
 - 25 Across: RIVAL
 - 26 Down: OF
 - 27 Across: RESEMBLING
 - 28 Down: MARTINO
 - 29 Across: PADO
 - 30 Down: ROMAN
 - 31 Across: TUBB
 - 32 Down: TRUX
 - 33 Across: STATE
 - 34 Down: AUSTRALIA
 - 35 Across: BARELY
 - 36 Down: AVOIDING
 - 37 Across: CATASTROPHE
 - 38 Down: REQUIREMENT
 - 39 Across: FOR
 - 40 Down: AUCT
 - 41 Across: VIOL
 - 42 Down: HAIR
 - 43 Across: CARE
 - 44 Down: PRODUCTS
 - 45 Across: PUBLISHERS
 - 46 Down: PAINFUL
 - 47 Across: GORDY
 - 48 Down: NATION
 - 49 Across: MD
 - 50 Down: SCHEME
 - 51 Across: EAGLE
 - 52 Down: EYED

Being the only superpower means never having to say you're sorry

By A. Clare Brandabur
Special to the Jordan Times

THE PRESENT flurry of consultations between the U.S. Secretary of State and the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians in London illustrates all too clearly the damage caused by the refusal to recognise and assign responsibility for the real issues underlying the present crisis. It is futile to pretend that the burning issue is what minuscule percentage of Palestinian land is to be evacuated by Israeli occupation troops or that Madeleine Albright is really going about trying to "bridge the gap between the two sides."

Unless and until the U.S. is willing to admit that years of stunningly unequal treatment by a succession of Washington administrations has created this gap, it is ingenious to pretend Israeli wealth and military power just happened or that the "development" of West Bank and Gazan economies is a natural phenomenon.

Because the U.S. is the sole world superpower, there seems to be a tacit assumption that, though other merely human administrations may undergo self-criticism and require the arduous work of a truth and reconciliation commission, Washington is allowed to go about huffing and puffing in indignation at the failures of others, never confronting its own glaring mistakes. To the eternal credit of South Africa's new government, the crimes of black and white antago-

nists in the struggle against apartheid are being reviewed, and those who are willing to admit their mistakes and to confess them to the world are given amnesty. The U.S. has been as self-righteous as a Puritan schoolmaster in calling for Khmer Rouge murderers to be brought before a world tribunal to answer for the slaughter of millions of Cambodians. But I see no evidence that the U.S. is ready to acknowledge and repent the fact that its moral, military and financial support for Pol Pot, justified by "cold war" expediencies, had the slightest bearing on these tragic events.

Thailand was turned into a brothel to serve U.S. troops during the Viet Nam war. Yet where is the confession of complicity on the part of the responsible decision-makers when Thailand suffers an AIDS epidemic or becomes the victim of child-sex tourist schemes?

Jonas Savimbi could not have continued the insurrection which cost thousands of lives and wasted the wealth of Angola had Henry Kissinger not perversely if covertly continued support long after it was obvious that the country as a whole had opted for a government not to his liking.

Saddam Hussein was able to massacre Kurdish and Shiite rebels because the same illustrious U.S. statesman had manoeuvred to leave him in control of the necessary air power and to withdraw support from dissident factions who had been promised American backing in their efforts to overthrow the leader. I remember being shocked to see Henry Kissinger on TV saying that we must leave Saddam Hussein enough of his tanks and elite troops to avoid "destabilising the region." (See the recent book by Jonathan Randall on The Kurds: After Such Knowledge, What Forgiveness?)

As Christopher Hitchens points out in his excellent book on Cyprus (aptly sub-titled *Hostage to History: From the Mongols to Henry Kissinger*), it was also Kissinger's connivance with the Turkish generals and the Greek colonels for landing rights at Pireaus on the one hand and air-bases in Turkey on the other which underlay the division of this beautiful long-suffering island.

Where is this admission in the bullying of U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke in his "shuttle diplomacy"? Where is U.S. contrition for the millions of land mines which continue to mutilate civilians in Afghanistan and Cambodia and Viet Nam? Who can charge George Bush or Ms. Albright with mass murder for the deaths of children in Iraq caused by U.S. bombing and U.S. enforced sanctions? Which of the presidents and generals and secretaries of state will stand before the World Court and answer for these crimes?

In Israel there is a sharp division between the official stance and that of the revisionist historians and the peace activists who have courageously faced up to the atrocities of Israel against the Palestinians from even before the beginning of the Jewish state. The official Netanyahu government continues to maintain the myth of the little Jewish state struggling bravely against a sea of foes. When will Ariel Sharon stand accused before a world court of war crimes for the slaughter of civilians in Lebanon? When will Israel be charged with war crimes for its torture of political prisoners and the assassinations of Palestinian leaders by death squads? When will Israel be charged in Brussels or anywhere else with ethnic cleansing and genocide?

Since the answer to these rhetorical questions is a cynical laugh, it should not surprise us that, at the very moment when Ms. Albright is trying so hard to "bridge the gap" between Israel and the Palestinians, U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen is meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to offer funding for a whole new generation of military hardware including more millions to be added to the billions already in the works for a third Arrow anti-missile battery.

Jordan industrial park attracts multinationals

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Business executives from around the globe are queuing to set up base in Jordan's industrial park designated by the United States as a free trade zone to foster joint projects with Israel.

Corporate high flyers have been coming in droves, charting appointments with top Jordanian investment officials since the Irbid park was designated by Washington last March as the first qualifying industrial zone (QIZ) with free trade access to U.S. markets.

"There is high demand and some Far East and European-based multinationals have even started registering companies in Jordan to set up projects in the zone," Reem Badran, deputy general manager of the Jordan Investment Corporation, told Reuters.

Under the programme passed to enhance economic cooperation between Jordan and Israel, products with a minimum 20 per cent Israeli production cost

or at least 11.7 per cent component qualify for free trade access to the U.S. market, without reciprocity.

It was passed by Congress in 1996 which authorised U.S. President Bill Clinton to eliminate tariffs on goods produced in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and QIZs in Jordan and Israel.

Ms. Badran said the multinationals which qualify to set up base in the QIZ are attracted by the unrestricted free trade access to the vast U.S. market granted for products manufactured in the zone which meets its criteria.

Some multinationals, talking about investing anything from \$20 million to \$100 million, have worked out deals with Israeli firms to import the necessary raw materials and components.

Among the list of multinationals are Hong Kong-based Boscan International, the Japanese Nishio Iwae conglomerate, U.S. Jordache Jeans and Boston-based Matt Industries.

The absence of quotas or customs duties ranging

from 15 to 30 per cent imposed by U.S. authorities should make Jordanian textiles produced in the zone compete even with Vietnam, the world's lowest cost producer, in the U.S. market.

Many Jordanians, who harbour deep-seated apprehensions over Israel's long-term economic and political designs over their country, say the QIZ hedges ill for its future.

They see only one reason why the United States was ready to designate the QIZ — to help Israel make deeper economic inroads into Jordan since a 1994 peace treaty normalised ties.

Loathing any dealings with Israel, they say their country's very survival is at stake through a vulnerable economy's exposure to an influx of Israeli capital.

Others say the QIZ will force weaker local manufacturers to become dependant on Israeli conglomerates and multinationals who enjoy the same status in the zone.

Israeli firms, competing in a global market, have

already set up base in Irbid to tap lower Jordanian labour cost and capital hungry local firms see benefits of tapping Israeli expertise and access to European and U.S. markets.

But a growing minority of business leaders are brushing aside these fears as unwarranted and see the QIZ offering Jordan a real opportunity to transform its economic landscape.

They counter fears of Israeli economic domination, saying the QIZ, which does not require equity joint ventures with Israel, is in fact a boon to Jordan. They point out that Israel already has free trade accords with global trade blocs.

Enthusiasts say the QIZ is putting Jordan on the global investment map and will soon allow it to vie with regional hubs such as Singapore and Jabel Ali in the United Arab Emirates for foreign capital inflows.

They say the fact that multinationals are knocking at Jordan's door in an unprecedented manner testifies to this. They estimate that the

zone could employ as many as 15,000 Jordanians in the next two years alone as many of the projects now in the pipeline come to fruition.

One pioneering company has done more than any other to bring the QIZ concept into reality as decision-makers in Israel, Jordan and Washington grappled with the complex dynamics of underpinning Middle East peace.

Century Investment Group, in only a few years has persuaded multinationals operating in Israel such as Sarah Lee and Motorola to shift to lower cost production in Jordan.

Many say the QIZ evolved from the success of Century, which has close links with Israel-based global giants in joint ventures from batteries to software ventures.

"We will no longer have to export to the U.S. via Israel," said Century Chairman Omar Salah, the leading investor in the Irbid industrial park with 10 of the 57 plants which have filled to capacity the 800-dunum (80 hectare) site.

The QIZ should allow Jordanian firms to export directly to the U.S. market rather than indirectly via Israel as Century has done so far, investors say.

Strong popular opposition to the zone has not put off many Jordanian companies from showing interest in relocating there to take advantage of the customs-free access to the U.S. market, officials say.

A joint Israeli-Jordanian committee in charge of approving eligibility of QIZ products for duty-free access to U.S. markets is expected to approve the first products this week.

Applications for new plots to be allocated in a first phase expansion of the existing zone far outweigh supply.

A land expansion project, to be completed this year, should allow for at least another 50 plants, which officials estimate will generate another 3,000 jobs.

Jordan is also pushing the United States to designate other industrial parks with the same free trade status.

Five banks bid for Jordan airline adviser role

AMMAN (R) — Five global investment banks have submitted bids to act as financial advisers to help the government privatise its loss-making state carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), bankers said Thursday.

The said Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Paribas, Credit Lyonnais and Merrill Lynch responded to RJ's invitation last March to 12 global banks to submit expressions of interest by May 4 to act as financial advisers.

The financial adviser will help the government to implement a World Bank blueprint for a five-stage privatisation programme, which will create a debt-

free operating subsidiary to attract an equity strategic partner.

RJ hopes the major restructuring to help restore the financial health of the company, straddled with around JD600 million (\$846 million) of debts mainly due to plane leasing, may be completed by 1999.

They said they expected the technical evaluation of the bids to be completed within RJ's own privatisation committee in June after which a higher government committee is expected to examine the financial bids of the five banks. Company officials said

they also received responses from eight international legal firms among 14 approached at the same time to act in parallel with the financial adviser as legal consultants to the government.

Both the financial adviser and the legal consultant are expected to be chosen within a 90-day period from the original May 4 deadline set for submitting the proposals, bankers said.

Last month the government, after almost two years of indecision, awarded leading Egyptian investment bank EGF Hermes the mandate to act as a financial adviser to a sale of 33

per cent of Jordan Cement Factories Company.

The selection of Hermes, the only regional outfit competing against nine international investment banks, has caused ripples in international investment circles who say such a choice may discourage them from considering Jordan in future deals.

Officials are applying in the choice of financial advisers a World Bank scoring system with weightings for technical and financial proposals, which critics say tilts the balance to the most price competitive.

Government criticised for planning a 10% tax on communication businesses

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior official and a general manager of an Internet service provider (ISP) Friday criticised the government's proposed 10 per cent tax on revenue of communication businesses.

The tax which will be levied on companies' gross revenue — before deduction of expenses and losses — is expected to eat away more than 10 per cent of ISPs' profit.

"It appears that we are not all singing the same tune, when it comes to making communication available to all Jordanians," said the official who asked not to be named.

The official was referring to His Majesty King Hussein's recent initiative to open the Royal Communications dish, Hasbani 1, to public and private ISPs at reduced prices.

"The King wants to make communications more accessible to all social classes," the official said. "The government comes along and introduces more taxes to make communications more expensive taking us back to where we started," added the official.

Moreover, the official characterised the government as tax-oriented, saying: "They [the government] are still thinking in short-term. They do not realise the strategic importance of communications to this country."

The government is justifying the tax on the basis that ISPs are competing with the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) which was taxed before it was privatised.

Abdullah Rifai, JTC's general manager, said the government's claim that the tax was justified because ISPs had taken away revenue from the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) was "baseless."

He said neither ISPs nor FastLink, the country's sole mobile phone provider, offer services similar to those offered by the JTC which has a monopoly on land-lines and international circuits until the end of 2002.

"If they want to add the 10 per cent tax on my gross revenue, then they might as well give me a licence to offer telephony," Dr. Rifai said.

The JTC currently taxes ISPs for lease-lines and international data-communication circuits

Arab-Chinese investments, trade to be discussed today

AMMAN (J.T) — The board of directors of the Arab-Chinese Chamber of Commerce is due to open a meeting in Amman Saturday with the participation of businessmen from China and the Arab World.

The meeting will focus on Arab-Chinese trade exchanges and investments and will follow up on the implementation of decisions passed by the chamber's previous meetings. The board members will meet Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and will hold

separate meetings with businessmen from Jordan and the Arab World.

According to chamber sources on the eve of the meetings, Arab-Chinese trade is very modest as China's exports to Arab states account for only 2.1 per cent of the overall volume of the country's exports. They said that the Arab World's total exports to China amounts to 1.9 per cent of China's overall imports.

On Sunday, the visiting Bulgarian economic and trade del-

egation is due to hold a meeting with Jordanian industrialists at the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI).

According to ACI sources, the two sides will discuss prospects for joint investment projects.

The Bulgarian delegation includes exporters of electrical components and equipment and manufacturers of trucks, containers, food processing machinery as well as suppliers of spare parts for mines and agricultural machines.

According to Haidar Murad,

chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Jordan last year imported \$14.1 million worth of Bulgarian products and exported \$8.2 million worth of Jordanian goods.

He said the balance of trade could be adjusted by increasing Bulgarian imports from Jordan and launching joint ventures between businesses of the two countries.

The Bulgarian delegation is headed by Reneta Injova, a former Bulgarian prime minister.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You'll have fun this morning just getting your opinion across. Somebody you know and love wants to argue, but don't give up. You can prevail if you persevere. Stay light-hearted. The other person is just in a cranky mood, that's all. Don't make it worse.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Either order those catalogue items or toss the catalogues once and for all. They're starting to take over your house! What's most fun about this weekend is the possibility of working in the garden. This is the perfect time for planting flowers.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Travelling is OK this morning, but not this evening. There could be a problem then, so get to where you're going before dinner-time. Don't be dismayed. If you're with the right group, you'll have a fabulous time no matter what happens.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) The morning looks hectic, but by this afternoon your biggest dilemma will be where to spend the evening. Should you go to the party or spend the time with one special person? Somebody wants to get you alone, but whether you want to make the commitment is still open to conjecture.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You'll get some of your best ideas this morning from close relatives or neighbours, especially if you're puttering around the house. One of them has run into a similar problem and already has a solution. Don't be shy about requesting help if you need it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're still in the mood to shop this morning, and you're only interested in the luxury items. Well, if you can find them on sale, you'll be fine. That should be your objective. Be the early bird at the garage sales, too. You could find something valuable for mere pennies.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your best time for finding bargains is early in the morning. You'll also be finding lots of attention, because you're looking good. Busy yourself with financial decisions this evening. If you get a good huddle drawn up tonight, you won't have to mess with it again for a while.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Finish paperwork and answer phone messages this morning. By afternoon, you'll be more interested in other things. You'll notice an increase in your resolve then, and maybe an interesting and exciting person who needs a little more of your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your friends want you to go to one thing and your sweetheart wants you to do another. And you're like to be someplace where nobody's nattering at you. If you've got a chore you've been putting off, dive into it. It'll be a perfect excuse not to hang out with any of them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Comply with an older person's demands this morning. You'll have more time for yourself and your friends this afternoon, but there's a conflict. The group wants you to join them, but a special person wants your time in private. That's where freedom of choice comes in. Which way you go is up to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Somebody you live with and a close relation, possibly a parent, are having a tiff. You're stuck right in the middle. How do you make them get along? Well, start by making sure each one feels loved. That's probably the basis of their jealousy anyway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Once you scrape up gas money, you can go for a drive. You may not be able to go far, but if you can get out at all, that would be great. If you have a parent or relative close by, go there. Not only will you get lots of love, you might also get free dinner.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

Jordan Electric Power JD20m. distributed

FOLLOWING THE approval of the general assembly during an extraordinary meeting, the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) has decided to raise its capital from JD15 million to JD20 million by distributing JD5 million of voluntary and special reserves as well as dividends from previous years' profits. As a result of the increase in capital, the shareholders will be awarded 100 new shares after ten days from the completion of the registration of the shares in the Jordan Securities Commission. The general assembly also approved during an ordinary session the distribution of JD10 million in dividends at a rate of 10 per cent. The company posted a JD20.3 million gross profit last year after accounting for production costs and other expenditures, the net after-tax profit was at JD12.1 million, 0.71 per cent higher than the 1996 figure. The company registered an 8.76 per cent increase in total assets at the end of 1997. Other earnings obtained by JEPCO amounted to JD26.7 million. According to the annual report, JEPCO's total assets at the end of last year stood at JD179.4 million, 5.3 per cent higher than the 1996 total of the amount, JD169.6 million were current assets which were 6.9 per cent less than the figure posted in 1996. Net fixed assets were higher by 10.17 per cent at the end of 1997. The liabilities and the shareholders' equity were both higher by 5.43 per cent and 4.57 per cent reaching JD122.9 million and JD26.53 million.

REUTERS The Business

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
US Dollar	-	1.7708	0.8116	1.4717
DE Mark	0.5647	-	0.5444	0.5034
GB Sterling	1.6372	2.9001	-	2.4326
CH Franc	0.6782	119.71	0.4126	-
JP Yen	0.0078	133.31	0.4686	1.1732
CA Dollar	0.6962	1.2916	0.4238	1.3888
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0136	0.3404	0.8044
NL Guilder	0.5013	88.72	0.3068	74.16
FR Franc	0.1685	0.2361	0.1627	34.36

Middle Eastern

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	TRY
US Dollar	-	0.7090	2.7804	0.3770
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	2.2887	0.5311
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	-	0.1696
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8805	0.3488	-
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	0.4238	1.0304
Kuwait Dinar	3.2787	2.3246	12.2864	1.2398
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	0.1938
Libanesse/1000	0.65	0.4688	2.4781	0.2486
Egyptian	0.2927	0.2078	1.0575	0.1104

Energy

Oil	Last	Review
Brent	13.98	13.73
N. Texas	15.33	15.22
Bonny	13.98	13.73
Dubai	12.93	12.73
UL Gas	156.00	156.00

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1747	1.1806
OE Mark	0.4002	0.4022
CH Franc	0.4804	0.4828
JP Yen	0.1194	0.12
FR Franc	0.5307	0.5334
NL Guilder	0.3554	0.3572
IT Lira	0.4059	0.4078

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Main Equity Index

Bourse	Index	Value
New York	DOW JONES	8974.32
New York	S&P 500	1108.54
London	FT-SE 100	5983.3
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16149
Paris	CAC 40	3098.35
Frankfurt	DAX	3287.88

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Demonstrates
- Velvety plant
- Young adult
- Gusseted's comic strip
- Part of TVA
- Regarding
- Of birds
- Hearthrob
- Reestablishes
- Bell positions
- Okahoma city
- Ingrid in "Casablanca"
- Serving dish
- Made longer ago
- Flower like lily of the valley
- Chow
- Rory Music member, once
- Bahrain bigwig
- Suffer with hope
- "Kerenina"
- Juniper-flavored drink
- Exploit
- Fries lightly
- Spade's "Just Shoot Me" co-star
- Floating casino
- Operatic voice
- homo (Behold the man!)
- Port on the Volga
- Seaside
- Stone worker
- Steakhouse dwelling
- Ice house
- Pot starter
- Besides
- Gas lights
- Garden gate-crasher
- Marsh growth
- Outfit for Chuck Yeager

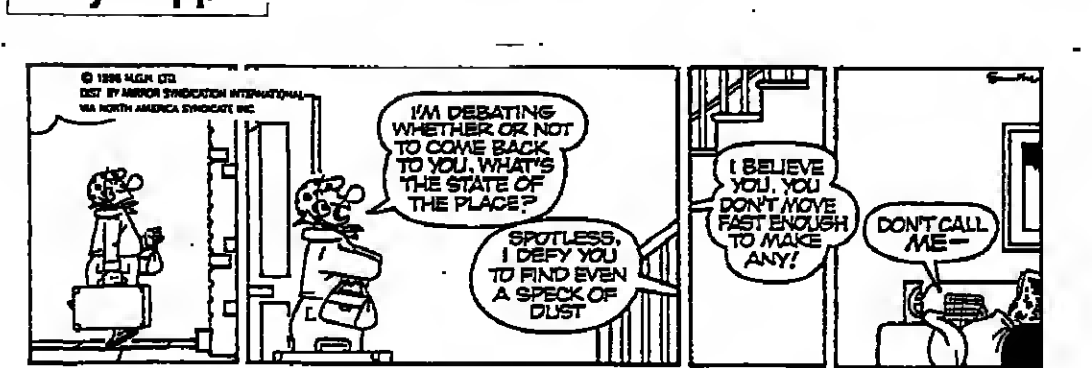
DOWN

- Blemish
- Passess
- Elevator man
- Of any kind at all
- Alternate word
- Got by
- Youths and mine
- Arne dies
- Months, Que.
- Shoulder warmer
- Of a leg bone
- Son of Seth
- Part of QED
- Seines
- Plant source for best fiber
- Getting the top grade
- Noted violin maker
- Teeth: pref.
- Three tris
- Cook with dry heat
- Bug
- Jug handles
- Inns in Tours
- Blaze of light
- Like a forest canopy
- Humbled
- Aired
- Cavalry sword
- Georgia
- Bernard or Irwin
- Top-notch
- Silent
- Let up
- Ballyhoo
- Moless
- 57 Actress
- Anderson
- Missing
- Bluffing cheer

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VERPO

MEERY

PORTSY

CRYLEE

Answer here: AN

Yesterday's Jumbles: POPPY PUDGY DOUBLE VALISE

Answer: What the ex-mechanic did with his mobile diner — "SOUPED" IT UP

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Jordan Electric Power Company raises capital to JD20m, distributes JD1.6m dividends

**** FOLLOWING THE approval of the general assembly during an extraordinary meeting, the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) has decided to raise its capital from JD15 million to JD20 million by capitalising JD5 million of voluntary and special reserves as well as premiums from previous issuances of shares. As a result of the increase in capital, the shareholders will be awarded free bonus shares after ten days from completing the registration of the shares at the Jordan Securities Commission.**

The general assembly also approved during an ordinary session the distribution of JD1.6 million in dividends at a rate of 11 per cent. The company posted a JD20.3 million gross profit last year but, after accounting for production costs and other expenditures, the net after-tax profit stood at JD3.2 million, 0.71 per cent higher than the 1996 figure. The operational earnings achieved by the company registered an 8.76 per cent increase as it totalled JD121.06 million at the end of 1997. Other earnings obtained by JEPCO amounted to JD0.7 million.

According to the annual report, JEPCO's total assets at the end of last year stood at JD179.4 million, 5.3 per cent higher than the 1996 total of the amount, JD45.6 million were current assets which were 6.9 per cent less than the figure posted in 1996. Net fixed assets were higher by 10.17 per cent as they totalled JD130.6 million at the end of 1997. The liabilities and the shareholders equity were both higher by 5.43 per cent and 4.57 per cent totalling JD152.9 million and JD26.53 million respectively.

Board Chairman Issam Bdeir told the general assembly that within the 1997-2001 five-year plan, the company is expected to complete building and electrifying some main transmission stations this year in addition to setting up and electrifying new transmission stations. The work expected to be implemented in 1998 will cost about JD12.3 million out of a total cost estimated at JD68 million for all the projects during the five-year plan.

The annual report revealed that power purchased during 1997 was 5.66 per cent higher than 1996 when the quantity purchased was 9.2 per cent higher than the 1995 figure. The average per capita power consumption during 1997 amounted to 1086 kilowatt hour compared to 1065 kilowatt hour during 1996.

Furthermore, the company installed 27,024 new electricity metres compared to 25,171 metres during 1996. By including this number, the total number of JEPCO subscribers reaches 482,228 compared to 455,204 subscribers in 1996. JEPCO's power is mostly consumed in Amman and Zarqa as the rate is 67.3 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. Salt, Madaba and Baqa'a consume 3.3 per cent, 4.6 per cent and 3.8 per cent of JEPCO's power.

Residential and public buildings consume about 42 per cent of electric power while industrial projects account for 23 per cent. Commercial establishments, hotels, restaurants, radio and TV take 17 per cent of electric power (Al Ra'i + Al Doustour).

AFM trading declines on lack of major contracts

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Due to lack of major contracts, turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) dropped last week compared with the previous week, a broker said Friday.

The stock market's weekly bulletin indicated that last week's turnover amounted to JD4.9 million compared to JD11.4 million a week ago, a decrease of 57 per cent.

The bulletin showed that 3.5 million shares changed hands during the past week with an average daily turnover of JD1.3 million compared to JD2.9 million

in the previous week. The overall trading was conducted through 2,105 contracts.

Naim Nageeb, a broker at the AFM, said that no major contracts were recorded in past week's trading compared with the previous week when several million worth of contracts, mainly for the Arab Bank, were registered.

Mr. Nageeb told the Jordan Times that dealers were concentrating on the shares of the Arab, Housing and Islamic banks.

He added that more than 550,000 shares of the Islamic Bank were traded at the AFM "due to the

decrease in their share prices which prompted investors to buy more shares."

The broker noted that trading in the industrial sector focused on the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company due to the annual meeting which was scheduled to take place on Thursday. Each shareholder was expected to receive a free bonus share.

Demand was also high for the shares of the Jordan Cement Factories Company which won dealers' attention due to the low prices of the shares.

Mr. Nageeb indicated that shares of several industrial

firms were not traded due to the "negative" results they announced during the past week.

The broker confirmed reports that several foreign portfolios resorted to sell large numbers of shares but noted that it was normal "phenomenon."

"Foreign portfolios are investing according to a particular predesigned plan," Mr. Nageeb said.

The AFM bulletin indicated that the lion's share of the turnover were captured by the industrial sector with a JD2.4 million, or 48.8 per cent.

The banking sector ranked second with JD2.2 million, or 45.1 per cent.

followed by services sector with JD280,000 or 5.7 per cent and finally the insurance sector with JD18,000 or 0.4 per cent.

The general price index (GPI) also recorded a decrease of 1.29 point, or .76 per cent. The bulletin indicated that the GPI in the past week's trading was 169.03 point compared to 170.32 point a week ago.

Out of the 87 firms whose shares have changed hands in the past week's trading, share prices of 17 companies recorded increase, 41 registered a decrease while shares of 29 firms witnessed no change in their prices.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/05/1998 - 04/05/1998)
WEEKLY REPORT

TRADING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/R	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
55,500	343,000 ARAB BANK	14.5	1.13	97	1580	274120	175.00	177.50	170.00	177.00	+2.00	171.454
1,820	1,670 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.8	4.22	16	3452	5853	1.71	1.71	1.65	1.70	-.03	1.696
1,350	1,250 ARAB. BANK OF JORDAN	4.2	0.00	1	1000	1340	1.34	1.24	1.34	1.34	-.04	1.340
1,950	1,920 JOR. SECURITIES	57.8	0.00	4	7130	6304	.92	.92	.88	.88	-.04	.882
1,830	1,640 JOR. SECURITIES	8.2	0.00	11	7850	12540	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	-.00	1.600
6,050	5,220 THE HOUSING BK.	18.5	3.43	367	130663	794873	6.03	6.16	5.75	5.83	-.20	6.007
1,850	1,790 JOR. SECURITIES	.9	0.00	13	2428	4413	1.83	1.83	1.80	1.83	-.03	1.818
1,650	1,640 JOR. SECURITIES	3.9	10.61	11	6400	4239	.67	.67	.66	.66	-.01	.662
2,450	2,460 ARAB. BANK OF JORDAN	50.2	2.02	2	200	454	2.60	2.47	2.47	2.47	-.11	2.470
1,950	1,790 JOR. SECURITIES	18.5	0.00	85	64057	112730	1.61	1.65	1.65	1.65	-.04	1.752
1,800	1,610 JOR. SECURITIES	9.8	0.00	4	600	918	1.61	1.53	1.53	1.53	-.08	1.530
1,890	1,820 JOR. SECURITIES	4.0	0.00	2	3250	1534	.82	.82	.82	.83	+.01	.823

TRADING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/R	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
2,700	2,700 JORDAN INSURANCE	11.6	5.56	1	1000	2700	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	-.00	2.700
1,040	1,000 ARABIAN REAS. INSUR.	54.9	0.00	4	3425	3425	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-.00	1.000
2,220	2,050 JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.0	11.74	8	5150	10545	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	-.01	2.126
2,200	2,200 JORDANIAN REAS. INSUR.	10.1	0.00	3	427	857	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	-.00	2.101

TRADING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/R	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE TURNOVER	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
540	510 EXPORTS & FIN. SER. 75X	14.8	0.00	5	3350	1551	.51	.51	.51	.51	-.01	.510
330	310 CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	-	0.00	2	258	78	.31	.31	.31	.31	-.00	.310
410	350 JOR. TRADE PAC.	-	0.00	14	23800	9758	.41	.41	.41	.41	-.00	.410
550	530 MACH. EXP. REINT. NATN.	27.4	0.00	16	54050	37188	.53	.53	.50	.50	-.03	.503
780	750 ARAB. FIN. INVEST.	-	0.00	42	78950	31487	.41	.41	.40	.40	-.01	.400
670	650 ARAB. FIN. INVEST.	39.2	0.00	5	7000	4538	.65	.67	.64	.64	-.02	.640
1,010	1,000 AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	352.1	0.00	11	85340	85339	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.00	-.08	1.000
2,000	1,620 CENTURY INV. GROUP	-	0.00	11	11500	17765	1.62	1.42	1.50	1.53	-.09	1.545
470	450 ARAB. FOOD & MED.	0.08	0.00	24	70153	33305	.45	.49	.46	.49	+.04	.473
430	340 ARAB. TITL. INV. TRD.	38.2	0.00	61	83600	27710	.34	.34	.30	.30	-.04	.312
140	130 KHAL. TEXTILE	6200.0	0.00	11	5950	1863	.14	.32	.31	.31	-.01	.312
630	600 HIGHEST PHARM. 50X	-	0.00	9	3229	1614	.60	.60	.60	.60	-.00	.600
440	400 ARAB. ELECT. IND.	-	0.00	1	450	185	.40	.41	.41	.41	-.01	.411
1,660	1,540 UNION TOBACCO 87.5X	9.7	8.22	7	5742	8052	1.54	1.51	1.52	1.52	-.02	1.402
700	670 RAZI PHARM.	-	0.00	10	18150	7062	.67	.69	.68	.68	-.01	.684
200	180 OPTICALS HEARING 75X	-	0.00	28	29484	15757	.61	.64	.64	.64	-.01	.636
210	270 IND. ENG.	-	0.00	16	23558	6594	.28	.28	.28	.28	-.00	.280
500	490 IND. CERAMIC	12.8	0.00	7	2500	1700	.50	.49	.49	.49	-.01	.480
400	400 PEARL SAM. P. CONV.	-	0.00	6	29130	11453	.48	.40	.40	.40	-.08	.400
400	450 KHAL. POSTAGE	-	0.00	82	59500	38978	.57	.57	.52	.52	-.05	.541
610	580 OPTICALS HEARING 75X	-	0.00	8	6850	2231	.58	.58	.57	.58	-.01	.578
1,000	850 READY MIX CONCRETE	9.0	0.00	2	2258	1890	.85	.84	.84	.84	-.01	.840
1,100	1,010 NUTRITRAN	2614.4	0.00	29	13898	14121	1.05	1.04	1.00	1.00	-.05	1.016
870	820 EXPRAL PRINT CO. 75X	12.5	9.24	5	9750	5556	.82	.82	.82	.82	-.00	.870
380	360 KHAL. MACH. ENG. HANICO	-	0.00	153	25222	215149	.37	.44	.37	.44	+.07	.407

GRAND TOTAL	595	1689109	837408
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The Business of Information

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.7708	0.8108	1.4788	132.76	1.4382	1746.38	1.9948	5.9300	
DE Mark	0.8647	1.0000	0.3446	0.8348	75.00	0.8106	986.99	1.1286	3.3526
GB Sterling	1.6372	2.9001	1.0000	2.4204	217.62	2.3813	2889.62	3.2863	8.7196
CH Franc	0.6762	1.1971	0.4126	1.0000	79.79	0.9706	1180.62	134.36	4.0130
JP Yen	0.0078	1.3331	0.4885	1.1131	1.0811	13.15	150.23	4.4706	
CA Dollar	0.8863	1.2918	0.4225	1.0886	1.08	1270.80	1.4851	4.3266	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0138	0.3484	0.8846	1317.18	0.8220	-	11.42	3.3992
NL Guilder	0.5013	0.8872	0.3088	0.7410	86.48	0.7184	874.93	-	2.9751
FR Franc	0.1686	0.2881	0.1027	0.248910	22.33	0.2417	33.89	33.6900	-

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
US Dollar	0.7090	3.7604	0.3770	3.6405	0.3050
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	8.2887	0.5317	5.1347	0.4302
Saudi Riyal	0.2868	0.1890	0.1005	0.9813	0.98
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.8808	0.9488	9.66	0.8091
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	1.1948	1.0302	1.0302	0.0838
Kuwait Dinar	3.2787	2.2246	1.2364	1.2360	11.94
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0208	0.9912
Lebanese/1000	0.68	0.4688	2.4781	2.4055	0.2016
Egyptian	0.2327	0.2078	1.0875	1.0867	0.0893

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1747	1.1806
DE Mark	0.4092	0.4022
CH Franc	0.4804	0.4828
FR Franc	0.1194	0.12
JP Yen	0.8307	0.8334
NL Guilder	0.3854	0.3872
IT Lira	0.4088	0.4095

Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pc Cts
DOW JONES	9078.82	100.14	1.12	9088.29	8971.2	8976.68
S&P 500	1108.54	14.4	1.31	1109.74	1094.63	1098.14
FT-SE 100	5989.8	31.6	0.54	5977.7	5938.5	5938
Nikkei 225	15148	5.97	0.04	15208.8	15096.7	15143
CAC 40	3906.36	-41.09	-1.04	3943.3	3900.17	3947.46
DAX	6257.88	71.36	1.38	6260.85	6218.39	6188.23

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"I have to tell myself that." She added: "I tell myself that."

Premier League expected to resume Thursday

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordan Football Association (JFA) official Friday predicted that the Premier League (PL) Championship will resume soon following reports that the boycotting clubs had agreed to reconsider their decision.

Bassam Haroun, a JFA member, said that the seven clubs that had suspended their participation were expected to issue a statement today (Saturday) declaring their stand to resume their participation in the PL contest.

Haroun said he expected the country's most popular sports event to restart on Thursday.

"I am sure that the seven clubs will review their decision and rejoin the PL contests."

The clubs had decided to suspend their participation demanding that ticket sales revenue be distributed equally among the 10 PL clubs, irrespective of the number of fans attending each club's matches.

The clubs came up with the demand after the JFA last month signed an agreement to market and sell PL matches in return for a JD300,000.

The dispute erupted following a demand by Al Faisali, Al Ramtha, Al

Ahli, Kufrum, Al Arabi, Al Hussein and Al Qadisiyyah clubs in which they requested an amendment of the 1997 formula that governs the allocation of the JFA's competitions revenue.

The 1997 ticket sales distribution formula stipulates that 35 per cent of the revenues be allocated to the two competing clubs, 35 per cent to the remaining clubs, 9 per cent for marketing purposes, 2 per cent to maintain football grounds in the Kingdom and the rest for the JFA.

Two clubs, Al Wihdat and Shabbab Al Hussein, declined to support this demand and hinted that any change of the present formula would prompt a "reconsideration" of their stand of competing in the PL Championship.

Al Jazireh Club was the only party that refrained from supporting any of the two sides.

"There is no room for any change on the formula that governs the distribution of ticket sales among the 10 clubs. We are not ready to make any changes," Haroun told the Jordan Times.

"We have made several concessions to them which were beyond their expectations and I believe that they will reconsider their stand soon," he added.

The JFA's official was referring to the recommendations made by the

association on Tuesday where they agreed to distribute 80 per cent of ticket sales among the 10 clubs.

They also agreed to give the clubs 50 per cent of the revenues received from the television coverage of the JFA's contests.

The recommendations submitted by a special JFA committee also noted that the revenues levied from the matches played in the Golden Quartet, the contest among the big four, will be allocated among these clubs only.

"I believe that giving them such concessions was beyond their dreams," Haroun noted.

He emphasised that the JFA declined to approve the cancellation of dual punishment, where clubs were fined a sum ranging between JD50 to JD100 if one of their players receives a red card booking during a match.

"This norm had been in force since a long time and it was unwise to cancel it. If we do, the players will be reckless and commit more violations to the soccer rules during the matches," he added.

"But we decided that this demand by the seven clubs be reviewed by a three-man committee which will then take a final decision," Haroun added.

Muster, Kuerten win, Chang loses

HAMBURG (AP) — A little less technicolour. Gustavo Kuerten is beginning to make his presence felt on red clay as he prepares to defend his French Open title later this month. And the samba bands are there too.

Kuerten overcame a brief second-set lapse and beat Hicham Arazi 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the French Open, a major tuneup for the French Open, the second Grand Slam event of the year that starts May 25.

Thomas Muster, a former French Open champion, also breezed into the quarterfinals, but the 1989 winner Michael Chang tumbled out.

In his yellow-and-blue outfit and a laid-back attitude, "Guga" came from nowhere last year to win the French Open and that remains his only career title. He's had a modest year so far, reaching the quarterfinals at the Super 9 event in Key Biscayne.

Kuerten is now sporting a little more subdued outfit. The shirt is predominantly yellow and resembles the one worn by Brazil's soccer team. The shorts are black and the shoes remain yellow.

In his match against Arazi, who reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros last year, Kuerten displayed the deft touch and the punishing ground strokes that carried him to the title in Paris.

He began the match by breaking Arazi's serve and breezed through the first set. The Moroccan ended the second set by breaking Kuerten's serve.

But the fifth-seeded Brazilian again broke for a 1-0 lead and cruised home to win in one hour, 29 minutes.

By reaching the quarterfinals of the \$2.45 million event, Kuerten posted his best performance on clay



Michael Chang

this year. "In practice, I am playing very well but in matches I have to be more consistent," Kuerten said.

"I played two very good sets today, but I let my game drop in the second. I am getting stronger mentally," he said.

"I had to do a lot to win today, I had to run a lot. A win like this is very good for the confidence," said Kuerten, who had samba dancers waiting for him after the match.

Kuerten will next play fourth-seeded Alex Corretja, who battled back to beat Sergi Bruguera, the man who lost to Kuerten in last year's French Open final, 6-7 (0-7), 6-4, 6-3.

Corretja, who was at least a break down in each set, rallied in a close and often spectacular match against the fellow Spaniard that lasted two hours and 24 minutes, converting his sixth match point.

Bruguera, the 1993 and 1994 French Open champion, and Corretja both played two matches

Thursday and Corretja played six sets.

Muster, French Open champion in 1995, routed German qualifier Jens Knippschild 6-1, 6-4 in 53 minutes.

"If I keep playing well, I feel I can win the tournament. I am getting pretty close to my best shape with each match," said Muster, a former No. 1 who has now slipped to No. 25.

Muster, seeking his first clay-court title since November 1996, is in the quarterfinals of this Super 9 tournament for the first time.

In a battle between two Spanish clay-court specialists, ninth-seeded Felix Mantilla staged an amazing comeback to outlast eighth-seeded Alberto Berasategui 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4).

Berasategui wasted 13 match points as he squandered a 5-1 lead in the second set. Mantilla, runner-up last year, took two injury timeouts to treat back problems.

Chang, seeded 11th, lost 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2 to

Francisco Clavet in a second-round match.

Wayne Ferreira, the unseeded South African who had upset top-seeded Marcelo Rios on Wednesday, lost 6-3, 6-3 to Albert Costa in the third round. Costa will next meet Fabrice Santoro, who ousted seventh-seeded Richard Krajicek 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Karol Kucera, the sixth-seeded Slovak who was one of the players who had to play twice Thursday, lost a total of seven games in advancing to a quarterfinal clash with Muster. Kucera beat Clavet 6-2, 6-2 in the third round.

Goran Ivanisevic, seed No. 16, beat second-seeded Greg Rusedski 6-4, 6-2 in a battle between two of the fastest servers in the game. Ivanisevic, who brought his career record against Rusedski to 8-0, will next play Mantilla.

Frequent rain delays had caused a backlog in the schedule, resulting in double shifts for several players.

England's heroes make all-time European team

NEW YORK (AP) — England's 1966 World Cup heroes Bobby Moore and Sir Bobby Charlton were named on Thursday as members of the greatest-ever European team.

Some 130 journalists from across the continent voted for the only Englishman to lift the Jules Rimet trophy and the man whose semi-final double against Portugal allowed Sir Alf Ramsey's side to reach the famous showdown with West Germany.

Fellow 1966 hero Gordon Banks missed out on a place in the team, edged out by Russia's legendary goalkeeper Lev Yashin, while Jimmy Greaves, Denis Law, George Best and Duncan Edwards were also among those who failed to gain selection.

But Moore and Charlton were joined in the side by their 1966 opponents Franz Beckenbauer, who topped the voting with 85 per cent, and Eusebio, Hungary's magical Ferenc Puskas and the epitome of total football, Johan Cruyff.

Also named is former French star Michael Platini, co-president of the 1998 World Cup organising committee.

All the players will go forward into the final global poll of football writers to see if they earn a place in Mastercard's World Football Team of the 20th Century.

Members of the European select will be competing with teams picked from the other continents, with South America represented by players including Pele, Alfredo Di Stefano and Diego Maradona.

Cameroon's Roger Milla is part of the African side, with somersaulting Mexican Hugo Sanchez in the Central and North American team. Cha Bum Kun, the current South Korean coach, made the Asia/Oceania team.

The official line-up for the all-time World XI will be unveiled in Paris on June 9, 24 hours before Brazil kick off the defence of their World Cup trophy against Scotland.

Europe: Yashin (USSR), Beckenbauer (West Germany), Moore (England), P. Maldini (Italy), Baresi (Italy), Cruyff (Holland), Platini (France), B. Charlton (England), Eusebio (Portugal), Puskas (Hungary), Van Basten (Holland).

South America: Filloi

(Argentina), Passarella (Argentina), Santos (Brazil), Figueroa (Chile), Carlos Alberto (Brazil), Maradona (Argentina), Di Stefano (Argentina), Rivelino (Brazil), Didi (Brazil), Pele (Brazil), Garrincha (Brazil).

CONCACAF (North America, Central America and Caribbean): Carbalaj (Mexico), Balboa (USA), Yearwood (Hond), Wilson (Costa Rica), Ramirez (Mexico), Gonzalez (Sal), Ramos (USA), Dely Valdes (Pan), Sanchez (Mex), Medford (Cre).

Africa: Nkono (Cameroon), Shehata (Egypt), Youssef (Egypt), Kunde (Cameroon), Mwepe (Zaire), Odegbami (Nigeria), Abega (Cameroon), Pele (Ghana), Pokou (Ivory Coast), Milla (Cameroon), Madjer (Algeria).

Asia/Oceania: Chow Chee Keong (Malaysia), Kim Ho Kon (South Korea), Ihara (Japan), Soh Chi Aum (Malaysia), Chen Chi Doi (Taiwan), Bagheri (Iran), Kim Joo Sang (South Korea), Majeed Abdullah (Saudi Arabia), Kamamoto (Japan), Azizi (Iran), Cha Bum Kun (South Korea).

season's Cup Winners Cup, which they won in 1996.

PSG will be without Brazilian skipper Rai at relegated Chateaufort as he made his farewell appearance in the Cup final at the Stade de France and has gone home to a new chapter in his career with Sao Paulo.

Elsewhere, the battle is on to escape the third relegation place and Strasbourg must win at home to midtable Montpellier to ensure their top flight status.

Cannes are already down but a home win against Guingamp would take their Breton opponents down with them.

A Guingamp win could spell disaster for Rennes, a point ahead of them and who face Toulouse. Bastia meanwhile face Nantes in a midtable clash whose outcome is academic.

Nancy and Lorient are already promoted from division two and Sochaux hopes to join them at the expense of Lille and Troyes.

In Spain, the big question remains whether Real Madrid will miss out on second spot, following their

home defeat by Zaragoza last Monday.

Real could, of course, still reach the Champions League by beating Juventus in the European Cup final on May 20 in Amsterdam.

But coach Jupp Heynckes hopes to make doubly sure by having his men finish runners-up to champions Barcelona.

Second-placed Athletic Bilbao, who lead Real by one point, travel to Merida on Sunday looking to keep their own Champions League dream alive, while Real have a date at Barca's neighbours Espanyol 24 hours earlier.

Fourth-placed Real Sociedad pose another Basque challenge to Real, whom they trail by just one point. And that advantage could disappear if Sociedad beat Tenerife.

But with things so tight in the top five, Mallorca, with a win at Salamanca and Beus, with a win over Santander, could also find themselves second by Sunday night if their rivals slip up.

Barcelona will meanwhile hope to end the UEFA Cup

hopes of Atletico Madrid, who can still just bag a berth on the European boat.

At the other end of the table, SD Compostela, Merida and Oviedo are all struggling to avoid the drop, a fate which has long befell Sporting Gijon, who have managed just two wins all season.

In Italy, Turin is preparing for a party on Sunday night if Juventus win the Italian title.

A home win over Bologna will secure Juventus' third title in four years — the 25th in the club's history — although a draw could be enough.

Marcello Lippi's men lead Inter Milan by four points, with one game still to play after this weekend. If Inter don't score more points than Juventus on Sunday, the league title stays in Turin.

However, despite the comfortable margin of error, Lippi is anxious to wrap things up now — so as not to damage the team's European Cup chances.

Two years ago, Juventus won Europe's top competition in Rome. Last year, they

won the Italian league just a few days before having to defend that trophy against Borussia Dortmund, and it all went wrong.

The 3-1 defeat in Germany still burns, and this season's schedule is even worse — the Serie A ends on May 17 and the European Cup final with Real Madrid is only three days later on May 20.

Lippi said: "My players are all concentrating on the game with Bologna, and I hope they are good enough and fortunate enough to settle the championship there and then."

Bologna will almost certainly be overwhelmed by Juventus as Lippi's men surge forward in search of victory, although they will need to keep an eye on former crowd favourite Roberto Baggio.

Baggio knows full well that another good performance — and best of all a goal — might convince national coach Cesare Maldini to take him to the World Cup finals next month.

Inter are away to a Bari side fighting to stay in the Serie A.

Finally in Germany, Cologne prepare to wave goodbye to the Bundesliga as they face relegation for the first time.

Cologne must hope that two teams above them lose and also shoot a handful of goals themselves against Bayer Leverkusen to bridge a hefty goal difference.

Champions Kaiserslautern travel to Hamburg, where they will receive the trophy and where 37-year-old veteran Andreas Brehme will play his final game before retirement.

Last season's title-winners Bayern Munich play Borussia Dortmund on the final day but there is little left to play for in what normally is a glamour fixture.

Bayern, who want to give Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni a worthy send-off in his final game in charge, are already assured of second spot.

Teens battle in Rome quarterfinals

ROME (AP) — Martina Hingis had it easy Thursday as she whipped Irina Spirela for the fifth straight time — but the world number one knows life will get more complicated starting Friday at the \$926,250 Italian Open.

The top seed hammered No. 10 Spirela from Romania 6-1, 6-2. The win puts the Swiss into a quarter-final against fellow teenage terror Anna Kournikova.

The 16-year-old Russian dispatched French Open winner Iva Majoli of Croatia with a comeback, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in their third-round match at the Foro Italico.

Hingis was counting her blessings — for the moment. "Today was a really good match for me, it was easier than expected," she said. "But it won't be that way tomorrow against Kournikova. She's a tough player, and is getting better."

Hingis won the pair's previous battle in Australia, 6-4 in the third set. "She's going to become very good," said Hingis. "She has a fast, solid game."

Two more young threats advanced. They happen to be the fast-rising Williams sisters.

Serena the Younger slammed the brakes on the five-year Italian Open success story of Cionchi Martinez, stunning the four-time Rome champion 6-2, 6-2.

The World No. 31 playing for her first time at the Foro Italico, will find her sister Venus waiting in the next round after the elder sibling scored a 6-1, 6-1 win over France's Alexandra Fusai.

Spain's Martinez, the losing Australian Open finalist to Hingis, ruled in Rome from 1993 through 1996, winning four straight titles. She was beaten in last year's trophy match on the red clay by Mary Pierce.

Serena Williams, who only appeared in the computer rankings last October as No. 453, now stands 31st and climbing. "I played pretty strong," said Serena, 16, competing on the European clay for the first time in her short career. "It was a good match for me."

"I've played a lot of those in the Top Ten, but not her. I had nothing to lose. I don't know my ranking, but she's like No. 8, so it was good for me."

Williams expects her prowess on the European "dirt" to make giant strides — hopefully in time for a good showing at the French Open and beyond.

"I've not played on red clay until now. It's one of my favorite surfaces — I have to tell myself that." She added: "When I go to the Wimbledon I'll tell myself that grass is my favourite surface."

Spanish veteran Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded fifth, emerged as an easy winner, duplicating the Hingis scoreline with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Belgian Dominique Van Roost.

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Executive Assistant to provide executive-level administrative support to the Executive Director. Required qualifications: Minimum 5 years experience as an executive assistant, experience in development, excellent organisational skills, fluency in spoken and written Arabic and English, strong interpersonal skills, and ability to show initiative and to follow-up. Short-listed candidates will be tested.

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American boxing star Mike Tyson hugs Egyptian singer Amr Diab, who received an award in Monte Carlo during the 10th anniversary of the World Music Awards, Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Clinton becomes first U.S. president to attend Arab American conference

WASHINGTON DC (AAM)

In what is considered a significant milestone for the Arab American community, U.S. President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker at the Arab American National Leadership Conference's 1998 annual gala at the Grand Hyatt in Washington DC. Mr. Clinton is the first U.S. president to ever address an Arab American gathering in a conference.

Upon entering the ballroom, the president received a long standing ovation from hundreds of participants gathered at the Grand Hyatt. In his speech, he later said "I'm surprised, frankly, and also disappointed because the Arab American community has made an enormous contribution to our country." While commending Arab Americans on their commitment to family and education, he also shared a story of an Arab American high school friend who later became a successful physicist as an example of how Arab Americans have made inroads.

He later went on to describe his vision of race relations in America and how his initiatives in that arena have begun to bear fruit.

In reference to the stalled peace process, Mr. Clinton

reminded the audience that "difficult choices have been made, will have to be made by Palestinians and Israelis alike. And we cannot impose a solution." He further cautioned "but we must, we must help find a common ground to return to the dialogue."

Mr. Clinton continued by saying: "We have an opportunity to get this process moving again and to move forward." He added: "It has been my experience in life, and I have lived long enough now to see it, that in almost every area of human endeavour opportunities do not last forever. They must be seized. And I hope this one will be seized."

The Clinton visit was dubbed by many as a success for Jim Zogby's Arab American Institute and the Arab American Democrats. But some expressed dismay at the apparently cautious Mr. Clinton and the lack of reference to Palestinian self-determination, or "airport profiling" and "secret evidence" both of which have been introduced during the Clinton administration and have resulted in what many describe as significant erosion to Arab and Muslim American's civil liberties in the U.S.

U.S. rushes to control fallout from first lady's remarks on Palestine

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton's remarks supporting a Palestinian state had the White House scrambling Thursday to prevent the burgeoning controversy from pushing the Middle East peace talks over the brink.

"She was reflecting a personal view," spokesman Michael McCurry said after the first lady observed that in the "long-term interest" of the Middle East.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's wife was speaking Wednesday through a satellite link to students from Israel, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Egypt and Jordan at a "Seeds of Peace" meeting in Switzerland. She used the word "Palestine" and was then challenged by an Israeli student, who said: "Right now, this country does not exist."

"I think that it will be in the long-term interest of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state," Ms. Clinton replied.

Malcolm Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, called the comments "particularly disturbing at this time."

A spokesman for New York Governor George Pataki said that "for one of America's leading government figures to seek to impose a Palestinian state on the borders of Israel is to act contrary to the interests of America."

The New York Post trumpeted the news with the front page headline: "Hillary Sparks Israel Furore — She Sides with Arafat on Palestinian State."

Mr. McCurry dismissed the furore, however, noting that Mr. Clinton has strong support in the Jewish community. "He is considered to be, and he is, one of the most stalwart supporters the state of Israel has ever had," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu reacted mildly to the comments, saying: "It is no secret that I oppose a Palestinian state for the simple reason that we cannot be sure it will not be another Iran or another Iraq. It is equally naturally perfectly possible that people in Washington whom we know and respect might have a different view," he added on CNN.

While recognising the significance of the event, many Arab Americans were ambivalent in their reactions. Some called the president's visit "charity" while others hailed it as sign of better access and increasing influence for Arab Americans. "His heart is in the right place, but that's not helping much," said one Arab American activist. "One giant step for Arab America, one tiny step for Arabs." It is how another participant summed it all up.

After the president's keynote address, Abdul Rahman Amoudi, former head of the American Muslim Council stood up and asked the president about the introduction of secret evidence to trials and airport profiling which targets travellers with Arabic and Muslim surnames and wardrobe. Nihad Awad, the president of the Council on American Muslim Relations, spoke privately with the president for a few minutes also raising similar issues.

Mr. Clinton continued for half an hour to shake hands with the crowds and answering questions before leaving. He was later followed by Reverend Jesse Jackson who is a long standing supporter of Jim Zogby and the Arab American Institute.

U.S. group headed by Clark takes \$4m in medicine to Iraq

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of more than 80 Americans arrived in Baghdad Friday to donate \$4 million worth of medicine to the Iraqi people.

The delegation, the largest group of Americans to visit Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war, is headed by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

The group, which includes representatives of several U.S.-based humanitarian and religious groups, left for the Iraqi capital via the Syrian-Iraq border.

Thomas Gumbleton, a Roman Catholic bishop, said the mission to Iraq was aimed at "challenging" the U.S.-spearheaded sanctions.

"We believe that they are illegal and immoral and that they are causing unnecessary suffering and death in Iraq," the Michigan-based bishop said.

"The American people are not aware of the impact of the sanctions. Therefore, we are bringing so many people here so we can go back and [relate] what is happening in Iraq," Bishop Gumbleton added.

"Sanctions are killing millions of people and children. We are against them and that is why we are bringing medicine with the delegation... which represents thousands of and thousands people across America irrespective of religion."



Members of the American delegation carrying humanitarian supplies to Iraq shouting slogans and calling for lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The shipment left for Baghdad Thursday evening carrying four tons of medicines worth US \$4 million (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Manzoor Ghori, a representative of the American Muslims for Global Peace and Justice, said: "We want to lift the embargo now, that is our challenge."

"We believe that the sanctions are illegal and against the Geneva convention. That is why we want to challenge the American law," added Mr. Ghori.

"We would like to mobilise support from all over the world, especially those who are against the sanctions, which are illegal and killing people," he said.

Reverend Lucius Walker, director of the Inter-religious Foundation, said his New Jersey-based group was opposed to sanctions anywhere in the world.

"In our case, we have, for some years, challenged the U.S. sanctions and embargoes against Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries in the world," Rev. Walker said.

"We represent the goodwill of hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens who feel outraged over the government's policy," he added.

The reverend stated that

U.S. propaganda, misinformation and lack of information are aimed at keeping the American public "in the dark and uninformed."

"This delegation represents a major departure from that policy. We have now new ambassadors who are able to carry the message to the U.S. public," he added.

Last week, representatives from the humanitarian group, Americans sent more than 35 tonnes of aid, consisting of mostly medicine to Iraq, following U.S. President Bill Clinton's approval.

Report: U.S. intelligence agencies were caught short in Iraq crisis

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

U.S. intelligence services have a huge gap in their information about Iraq, a failing revealed during the recent show-down over U.N. arms inspectors, according to a report released to the U.S. Congress Thursday.

The report by the U.S. House Select committee on Intelligence says the crisis over Baghdad's earlier refusal to allow the inspectors access to "presidential sites" demonstrated "how much at risk, and how ill-prepared, we are."

"Did we have a policy, and did we have the intelligence that would not only support a policy decision and its implementation, but would also provide the information necessary to develop options?" the report asks rhetorically.

"Regarding the latter, the answer was a resounding 'no,'" says the report.

The report also cites a breach made by "hackers" in Pentagon computer security in February as evidence of U.S. vulnerability. Although the hackers had no hostile intentions, the incident proved that technology is the "Achilles' heel" of the U.S. government, the report says.

The report by the select committee chairman, Porter Goss, a former CIA officer, was presented to the U.S. House of Representatives in the budget debate for the country's 13 intelligence agencies.

These budgets are classified information, and the 1997 budget for the Central Intelligence Agency was revealed as \$26.7 billion only after a pressure group had recourse to freedom of information legislation.

Butler to get Russian adviser

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) —

The top U.N. weapons inspector, Richard Butler, has agreed to add a Russian political adviser to his staff, U.N. officials said Thursday.

Russian diplomats identified the candidate as Nikita Zhukov, a Russian foreign ministry official, but did not immediately confirm the appointment.

Russian Ambassador Sergei Lavrov wrote on Apr. 23 to U.N. Special Commission chairman Richard Butler, an Australian diplomat, proposing the addition of a Russian political adviser.

Russia is sympathetic to Iraqi claims that UNSCOM is politically dominated by the United States and Britain, which take a hard line in the U.N. Security Council on Iraq.

Baghdad has argued that their influence would be diluted by the addition of staff more sympathetic to Iraqi positions.

Russia has endorsed Iraqi calls for UNSCOM's staff to be increased, and on Mar. 4

wrote to Mr. Butler proposing that he should appoint a Russian deputy chairman.

That proposal, which has been blocked by the United States in the Security Council, was apparently aimed at counter-balancing Mr. Butler's existing U.S. deputy, Charles Duelfer.

Mr. Butler's latest proposal came after Mr. Butler agreed to a new French political adviser, French Foreign Ministry official Eric Fournier. Mr. Butler also has an Argentine political adviser, Gustavo Flaurvines.

'Sudanese government detains 85 opposition supporters'

KHARTOUM (AFP) —

The Sudanese military-based Islamist regime, has detained 85 opposition activists including two lawyers, the leader of a Sudanese lawyers' group said Thursday.

Alluding to the authorities, Ghazi Suleiman of the National Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (NARD), told journalists that the "forces of oppression and tyranny" had arrested lawyers Ali Al Sayyed and Khalid Abul Rus Thursday after searching their homes and offices.

The two men were then taken away to "an unknown destination," Mr. Suleiman said at a press conference, calling for the men's "immediate release."

He said if the authorities refused to free the two, the NARD would alert international human rights groups and organise a "protest march" and a strike to secure their release.

NARD is one of the main internal opposition groups in Sudan. It is not part of the Democratic National Alliance which groups the exiled northern opposition and southern rebels.

Mr. Suleiman also said 83 other opposition activists had been arrested since the start on May 1 of a referendum on a new constitution. The results of the poll are due to be made public at the end of May.

He did not identify those held, but the opposition Muslim Brotherhood organisation said on Wednesday that one of its members, Ali Aba Saleh, an imam, had been detained for having criticised the draft constitution.

Mr. Suleiman said the draft "institutionalises oppression and tyranny."

The constitutional draft offers no explicit guarantees that multi-party politics will be restored, and is vague about what political groups will be authorised once the new constitution becomes law.

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Yeltsin sends Blair birthday 'hugs'

MOSCOW (AFP) —

Russian President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday sent warm greetings to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on his 45th birthday. Yeltsin's office said. The message, shared with the press in Russian, began, "Dear Tony." It said the president "greatly appreciated his contribution to the dynamic development of Russian-British relations."

Yeltsin wished Blair and his family "health, happiness and success," and closed with "Hugs."

Clinton and Chretien make bet

OTTAWA (AP) —

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien made a bet Thursday on the outcome of the National Hockey League playoff between the Washington Capitals and Ottawa Senators. The loser has to wear the winner's sweater at a journalistic photo opportunity.

Jackson in the Virgin Islands

CHRISTIANSTED (AP) —

Michael Jackson, wearing his trademark black surgical mask in the tropical heat, hugged and signed autographs for fans during a business trip Thursday in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The pop star's visit to the Virgin Islands Casino Commission on the island of St. Croix attracted dozens of fans and prompted speculation that Jackson may be exploring the possibility of opening a hotel or theme park in the territory.

Bob Dole says he took Viagra impotence pill

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

Former Republican senator and presidential candidate Robert Dole says he took part in trials for the relatively new impotence drug Viagra, and has no complaints. "I think it's an effective drug," Dole, 74, said in an interview with CNN's "Larry King Live" late Thursday. "There are many men out there — millions of men — who suffer from impotence and this may be the first step," Dole said. Viagra is sold as a pill that must be swallowed a full 60 minutes before sexual relations. The drug supposedly stimulates an erection.

Mr. Dole had earlier said he would be hard-pressed to perform in bed after a Monday summit, could pursue efforts to make a breakthrough.

He said Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, had all been back to the region at Mr. Clinton's request in order to come and work on the peace that remains with the Israelis.

Mr. Clinton said the summit was "a very important moment in the history of the Middle East." He said the summit was "a very important moment in the history of the Middle East."

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Jordan thanks K... for release of prison

Amman (K) — Acting Minister of Interior... Jordan Times

Volume 23 Number 6834

Suspects in Lawzi expected

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The security forces have announced a series of arrests in Amman in the past two weeks... Jordan Times

Washington Ross: Differences

The U.S. and the Middle East... Jordan Times

Arafat

ABU DHABI — The European Union has presented demands to release Middle East peace... Jordan Times

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